SPORTS / A21

Cabrera thwarts
Woods, Furyk for US Open crown

ACROSS / A14

NPAs attack
cell site to impose 'taxes'

BUSINESS / B1

RP stocks hit new
record high; foreign investors play key role

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Dollywood: John
Estrada wants to kiss intrigues goodbye

Ping, Joker engage in mudslinging

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FIGHT OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE powerful Senate blue ribbon committee has turned nasty with the "super cop" and the "people's dragon" digging out skeletons from each other's closet.

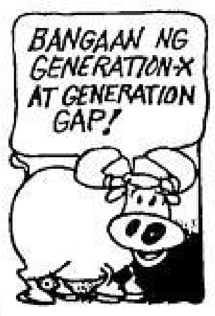
Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, a former national police chief, said Sen. Joker Arroyo, who por-

PING/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, June 19, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 191 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Generational clash looms in Senate

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

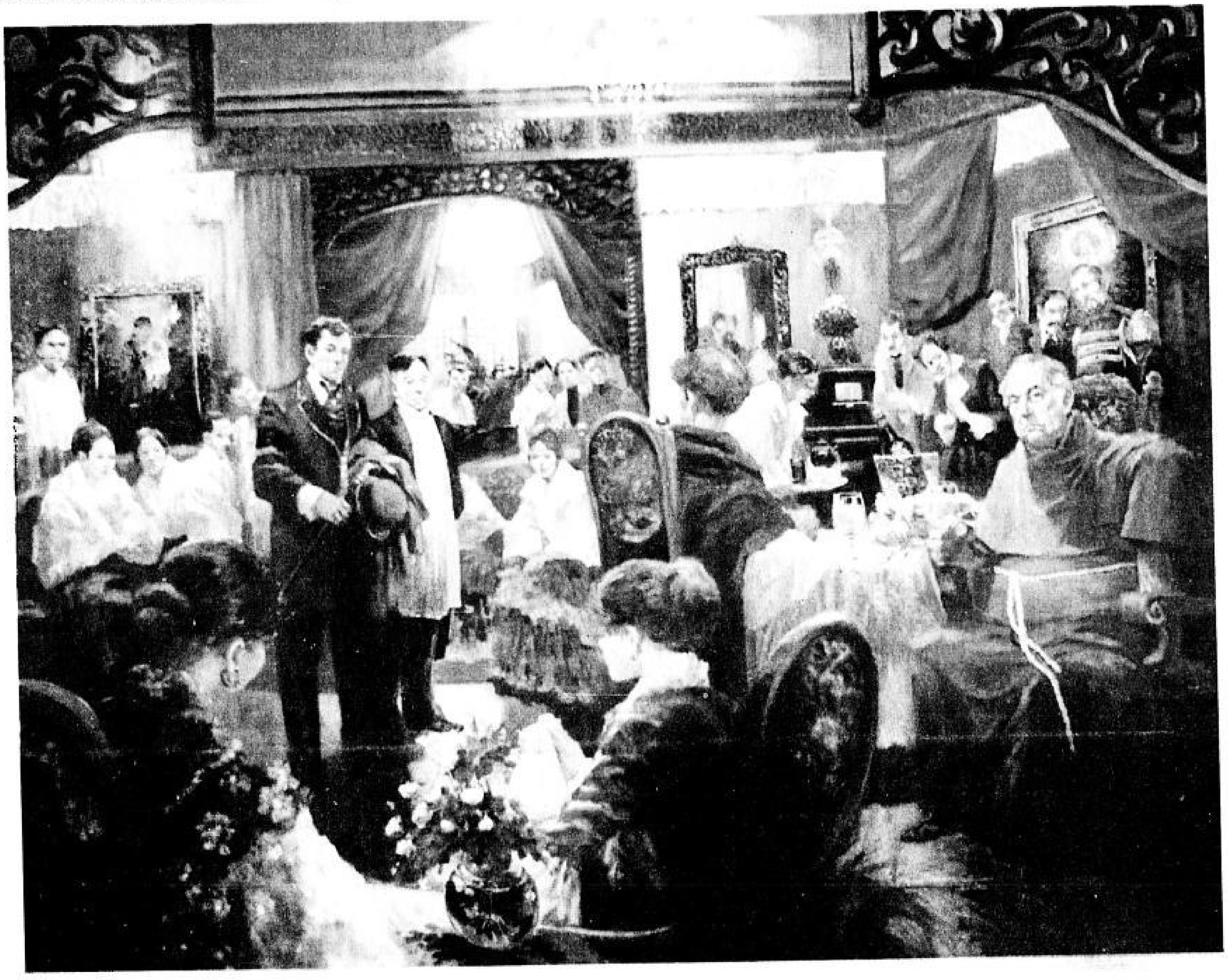


IT'S THE INVASION OF the Gen X senators.

Incoming Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero told the Senate's old guard to brace themselves for a revolution with the entry

GENERATIONAL / A6

Kidnappers surrounded



Negotiations under way for release of Italian priest

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila

KIDNAPPED ITALIAN PRIEST GIancarlo Bossi and the gunmen holding him were located on Sunday, eight days after he was abducted in Zamboanga Sibugay, paving the way for negotiations for his release, a military official said yesterday.

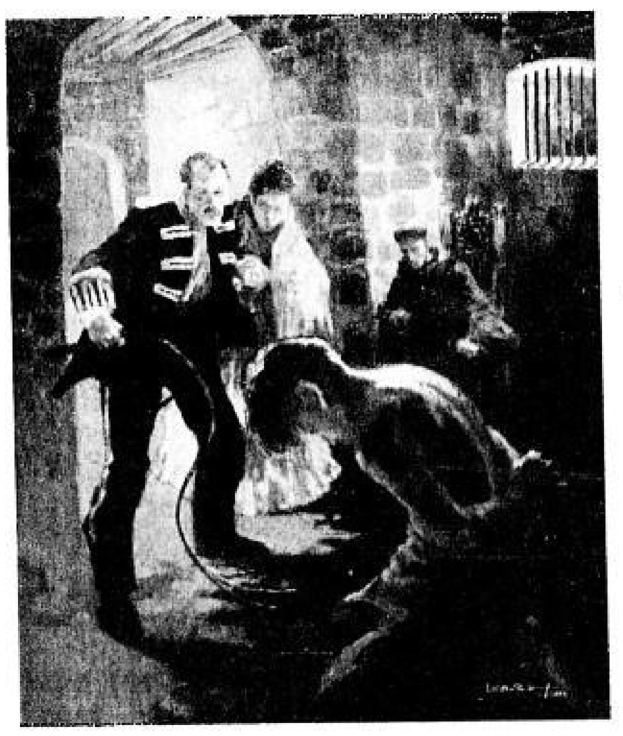
Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino declined to identify the exact location of Bossi and his kidnappers but said it was in "another province … in mainland Mindanao.".

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which is helping the government obtain the release of the priest, confirmed that Bossi, 57, had been taken out of Zamboanga Sibugay.

"I cannot tell you the exact area but it is within the boundary of Zamboanga and Lanao," Kabalu said.

The Milan-born priest from the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) was

KIDNAPPERS/ A6



"ANG PAGTITIPON" (above) depicts a party in Capitan Tiago's house as the opening scene of national hero Jose Rizal's novel "Noli Me Tangere" (right). At left is "Vae Victus" portraying the torture of Elias.

After reading 'Noli,' you may now view Rizal novel

By Lito B. Zulueta

TWENTY-EIGHT OIL PAINTINGS BY A Filipino artist depict key scenes in Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," the first time that the novel has been so extensively celebrated in oil on canvas.

Although Juan Luna did illustrations for the "Noli" as a gift to Rizal, these were never published with the novel.

The series by painter Leonardo Cruz was launched recently and is on view at the Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, in time for the celebra-

AFTER/ A6

NOLI ME TANGERE
Rizal

Local execs push revamp of Cabinet

By Michael Lim Ubac

LOCAL EXECUTIVES YESTERDAY URGED President Macapagal-Arroyo to reorganize her Cabinet amid apparent opposition by her close advisers to the move reportedly prompted by the setback administration senatorial candidates suffered in the May 14 elections.

The influential Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and the Governors' League of the Philippines said the President should not give in to her inner circle, which has been resisting the impending reorganization of her official family.

LOCAL/ A6

Voters strike back at candidates

By Winston A. Marbella
Contributor

(Last of three parts)

LIKE MEN WHEN THEY DISCOVERED fire, outgoing Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay is fascinated by the power of the 30-second television commercial.

"I believe I have done well for a political neophyte in the national scene," Pichay said when he conceded. "The experience was very enriching. For a new face in national politics to garner 10 million votes, I consider that a success. I beat big names along the way."

Pichay gambled everything he had on his television commercials to improve his awareness level nationally, coming out the biggest spender among the senatorial candidates. But he said he did not

VOTERS/ A8

AFP has no extrajudicial killings policy–Esperon

By Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

SAYING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE Armed Forces of the Philippines was at stake, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon denied the military had an extrajudicial execution policy and said he was investigating claims that this was discussed in a command conference.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP information chief, said Esperon reacted sharply to an INQUIRER report yesterday that two generals had offered to supply incoming Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV with "ammunition" to pursue probes on political killings and the military's alleged involvement in the "Hello Garci" controversy.

"If we will leave it like that, it will destroy the credibility of the AFP," Bacarro said.

Esperon said that as Army commander, he could not recall a command conference during the term of his predeces-

AFP/ A13

Whistle-blowers wary of Abalos, says group

By Cathy Yamsuan, Nikko Dizon and Nash B. Maulana
Inquirer Mindanao Bureau

THE SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO blew the whistle on poll cheating in Maguindanao are ready to talk but they don't trust Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and want an assurance the politicians involved in the fraud will be punished, a poll watchdog lawyer said yesterday.

Carlos Medina, one of the convenors of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente), spelled out to the INQUIRER the sentiments of the teachers even as a team of poll officials, headed by Abalos, prepared to leave for Maguindanao to resolve poll controversies that had delayed the proclamation of the 12th winning

WHISTLE-BLOWERS/ A8

THE SABOTAGE OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL
OPPOSE THE SPONSORED CHEATING, HARASSMENT and KILLINGS

IN A RARE rally in Marawi City, residents demand the pullout of the PNP Regional Mobile Group assigned to guard tomorrow's special elections.

RICHEL UMEL/ INQUIRER MINDANAO

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/06/18/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Oliver North: Pinoys doing it right

By Alcuin Papa

IN THE EYES OF FORMER AMERICAN MILITARY officer Oliver North of Iran-Contra fame in the '80s, the Philippine military is doing something right in the fight against global terrorism.

North, who now works for Fox News paid a visit to Camp Crame yesterday to interview ranking police officers on the war against terrorism.

Initially, North refused to be interviewed by reporters, saying he had to get permission from his superiors. But the reporters continued to pepper him with questions.

He said he was in the country shooting a documentary on counterterrorism. When asked why he was focusing his documentary on the Philippines, a well-tanned North quipped, "Because you're doing it right."

Later, the 64-year-old former Marine lieutenant colonel gamely posed for pictures with journalists. He is also reportedly doing a documentary on "Operation Bojinka," an al-Qaida plan to bomb international airline flights. Many experts believed the plan was the template for the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

North has been in the country the past two weeks doing special reports for Fox News, one of which was on the $10-million reward given recently by the US government to four informers. This led to the deaths of Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman.

In his story posted on the Fox News website, North said the payout "may well mark the beginning of the end for the notorious Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)…"

In the same article, North said the US and the Philippines were waging the war on terror "not simply as a military campaign against terrorists, but primarily as a battle for the hearts and minds of the people" and that this strategy is "paying big dividends."

North "embedded" himself with US troops conducting joint training exercises in the country.

North writes of his coverage: "The 'job' for less than 160 US Special Operations personnel here at what they call 'Advanced Operating Base 150' is to 'advise and assist' the Filipinos in their fight against the ASG. For these Americans, who are from the most elite units in the US military and used to doing the fighting themselves, this is a very tough mission."

The Philippine Constitution forbids US military troops from engaging in combat operations here.

North is a nationally syndicated columnist and host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel. He is also founder of Freedom Alliance, a foundation that provides scholarships to the children of military personnel killed in action.

North came to national prominence in 1986 when he was linked to the clandestine sale of antitank and antiaircraft weapons to Iran in order to generate funds to support the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in violation of US law.

North was said to have run a quasi-military intelligence and arms smuggling circuit that involved many countries, including the Philippines. Some reports alleged that then dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his chief of staff, Gen. Fabian Ver, provided the false end-user certificates that allowed the secret enterprise to divert arms wherever it wished, reportedly for huge black-bag payoffs.

Then US President Ronald Reagan, a friend of the Marcoses, had made a public pledge not to deal with Iran, where 52 members of the American diplomatic mission in Tehran had earlier been held hostage.

When the Iran-Contra scandal broke, Reagan fired North. Called to testify before a joint congressional committee in 1987, North defended his actions by stating that he believed in the goal of aiding the Contras, whom he saw as freedom fighters, and said that he viewed the Iran-Contra affair as a "neat idea."

North, a Texan by birth, was tried before a grand jury and indicted on 16 felony counts for lying to Congress, obstructing justice and receiving kickbacks.

The charges against him were dismissed in 1991.

In 1994, he ran for a Senate seat in Virginia as a Republican but lost.

Giant Chinese shipping company to build $3-B complex in Cavite

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A CHINESE SHIPPING GIANT WILL build a $3-billion (P140 billion) shipping complex at Sangley Point in Cavite to serve as its main hub in Southeast Asia.

Malacañang announced the news yesterday after China Ocean Shipping Group Company (Cosco) chief executive officer Wei Jia Fu paid a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday afternoon.

Ambassador Francis Chua, special Philippine envoy on China trade and investments, said the Cosco investment would generate 100,000 jobs, particularly for Filipino seafarers. Sangley Point is being developed as an international transshipment point through the creation of a special economic zone.

During the courtesy call, Wei informed Ms Arroyo of the decision of Cosco, one of the world's biggest shipping companies, to pour $3 billion into a shipping complex development project at Sangley.

According to a Malacañang statement, Cosco, founded in 1961 as the pioneer international shipping carrier in China, has grown into a $17-billion global company which operates 600 types of ships that call at 1,300 ports in more than 160 countries.

Malacañang did not say when Cosco would start building the complex nor its possible completion date.

Wei's courtesy call was an off-shoot of Ms Arroyo's visit to China last month, where she invited Chinese businessmen to come to the Philippines to look at investment opportunities.

Wei was accompanied by Cosco general managers Shi Zemin and Yuan Xiayu, Cosco container lines managing director Sun Jia Kang and Cosco Corp. Singapore Ltd. president Ji Hai Sheng.

Also present at Malacañang were Chua, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and National Economic and Development Authority Secretary General Romulo Neri.

Cosco will be the second foreign firm to establish a shipping complex in the country. Hanjin Corporation of Korea, the world's fourth largest shipbuilding company, decided to infuse $1 billion into a shipyard project at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

Court upholds forfeiture of Marcos aide's 'wealth'

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY UPheld with finality the decision it handed down in December 2006 forfeiting in favor of the government an $8-million bank account in Switzerland representing the "ill-gotten wealth" of Fe Roa-Gimenez, a former aide of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The antigraft court's First Division denied for lack of merit the motion for reconsideration filed in January by Gimenez, who served as Marcos' social secretary from 1981 to 1985.

The court noted in a three-page resolution that the points raised by Gimenez and fellow respondents—her husband Ignacio Gimenez and her brother-in-law Roberto Olanday—had already been addressed.

Upheld was the court's Dec. 28, 2006, summary judgment forfeiting the funds found in an account at Adler Bank in Zurich, Switzerland. The ruling was handed down by the division chair, Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, and members, Justices Diosdado Peralta and Efren de la Cruz.

That decision noted that Olanday acted as a dummy for the Gimenez couple in maintaining the bank account.

The court yesterday stood by its decision that a full-blown trial on the forfeiture case would be "totally unnecessary" after Gimenez and the others "failed to present genuine issues of fact" that could have challenged the government's proof presenting the nature of the funds.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

NLEX Dau-Sta. Ines Section Temporarily Closed to Traffic for 4 hours each --12 midnight to 4:00 a.m. -- on June 20 & 21, 2007

Reason for temporary closure:
Removal of bridge support that will connect Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway to NLEX

Vehicles exiting Dau on these dates and hours will not be made to pay the full Dau Exit toll. Instead, they will only be charged an amount equivalent to the Angeles Exit toll.

MANILA NORTH TOLLWAYS CORPORATION

Unicef, WHO rap int'l firms blocking Milk Code

By Leila B. Salaverria

OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILdren's Fund (Unicef) and the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday denounced attempts by international pharmaceutical firms to stop the implementation of the Milk Code of the Philippines that would regulate infant formula advertising and promote breastfeeding.

"There is great concern in the international community over what is happening in the Philippines at the moment," David Clark, Unicef legal expert on milk code enforcement, said in a statement.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear today oral arguments on the Milk Code, which had been temporarily held in abeyance upon the pleading of milk companies represented by the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines.

The code bans advertisements for breast milk substitutes intended for infants and children up to 2 years old. Milk companies argued that the code curtailed international trade and marketing agreements.

The United States Chamber of Commerce had asked the Department of Trade and Industry to reexamine the Milk Code and its impact on trade, investment, employment and other commercial activities.

"The blockage of the implementation of the code sends a negative message to other countries around the world that are trying to protect infant health and survival through strong national legislation," said Clark.

The Department of Health wants the temporary restraining order lifted, saying the Milk Code was intended to arrest the decline in breast feeding.

At a press conference, Clark said the milk companies were "picking on" the Philippines when it came to the Milk Code because of the big market for their products here. He noted that the amount spent for advertising infant formula in the Philippines was twice that spent in the United States.

The Unicef officer also said the milk companies' "seductive" advertising lured parents into abandoning breastfeeding in favor of infant formula.

The DOH had said the milk ads promoted false claims, like when they said their products made children more intelligent.

"Why are these companies picking on the Philippines? Why are they choosing to put corporate profits before infant survival?" he said.

Clark also contested claims that the Milk Code would hamper trade with multinational companies. He pointed out that the Milk Code would only regulate the marketing of infant formula and not trade and manufacture, and added that the code would be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Clark warned that "powdered infant formula is not a sterile product and may contain harmful bacteria. The government of the Philippines should be applauded for attempting to protect the health and survival of Filipino infants in this way."

WHO medical officer Howard Sobel, for his part, noted that 10,000 deaths could have been avoided if infants had been exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life. Formula-fed infants are 14 times more likely to die from diarrhea, he said.

No rains yet, but typhoon expected

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE WILL HIT THE COUNtry until the end of the week, but rainshowers and thunderstorms will prevail in some parts of the country, according to the weather bureau.

"So far there's no cyclone, and there's nothing new coming in," Nathaniel Cruz, head of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's weather (Pagasa) branch, said in a press briefing yesterday.

But he added that a typhoon was forecast for Saturday.

Pagasa had predicted that at least 13 typhoons will rip through the country between May and September this year.

But after a weak typhoon hit the eastern section of the country in mid-May, no others followed, even after the onset of the rainy season in early June.

In 2000, no typhoon hit the country the entire month of June. But this was followed by four cyclones the following month, according to Cruz.

The bureau, however, forecast that central and southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao would experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms today and the rest of the week.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening. "We will continue to have afternoon and early evening rainshowers," Cruz said. *TJ Burgonio*

Archbishop Cruz: I'm returning to my first love

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes in *Northern Luzon* **and Jerome Aning in** *Manila*

DAGUPAN CITY—AFTER HAVING served the Catholic Church for 47 years, Archbishop Oscar Cruz is raring to return to his first love: farming.

"I will be planting vegetables. I want to take care of eggplants, tomatoes, chili and other plants. It won't be a big farm but it won't be a small garden. Farming was my first love before I entered the seminary," said Cruz, who resigned as archbishop of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese in March this year.

"I'm now 73, and young people should come in because they are more energetic, they have more ideas and they are more idealistic," he told the INQUIRER.

The mandatory age for retirement among bishops is 75.

Cruz said he first resigned as archbishop in 2001 but this was rejected.

"But I feel it will be approved this year," he said.

At present, Cruz chairs the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) World, which is the Catholic Church's network provider; the CBCP legal office, the CBCP dispensation section which handles dismissals of priests, and the National Appellate Matrimonial Tribunal, which handles cases of annulment for Catholic marriages in the country.

Cruz said he wanted to do other things aside from farming.

"I will draw and paint. I may also go on vacation. But not to Europe," he said.

"I'm tired of Europe. Maybe Asia, maybe Istanbul (Turkey). I may talk with Yilmaz (Bektas, husband of movie star Ruffa Gutierrez)," he quipped.

The prelate said he would also continue writing. Another "serious undertaking" would be to acquire a doctoral degree in philosophy of law or ethical philosophy.

Cruz also said that aside from Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, who turns 75 in August, there "are five or six more who will resign."

"But I think Cardinal Rosales' resignation will not be accepted because he is still strong," Cruz said.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal turned 75 in February last year and duly submitted his resignation. The Vatican, however, has retained him and has not named a successor.

The two other prelates turning 75 this year are Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan and Legazpi Auxiliary Bishop Lucilo Quiambao. *With a report from Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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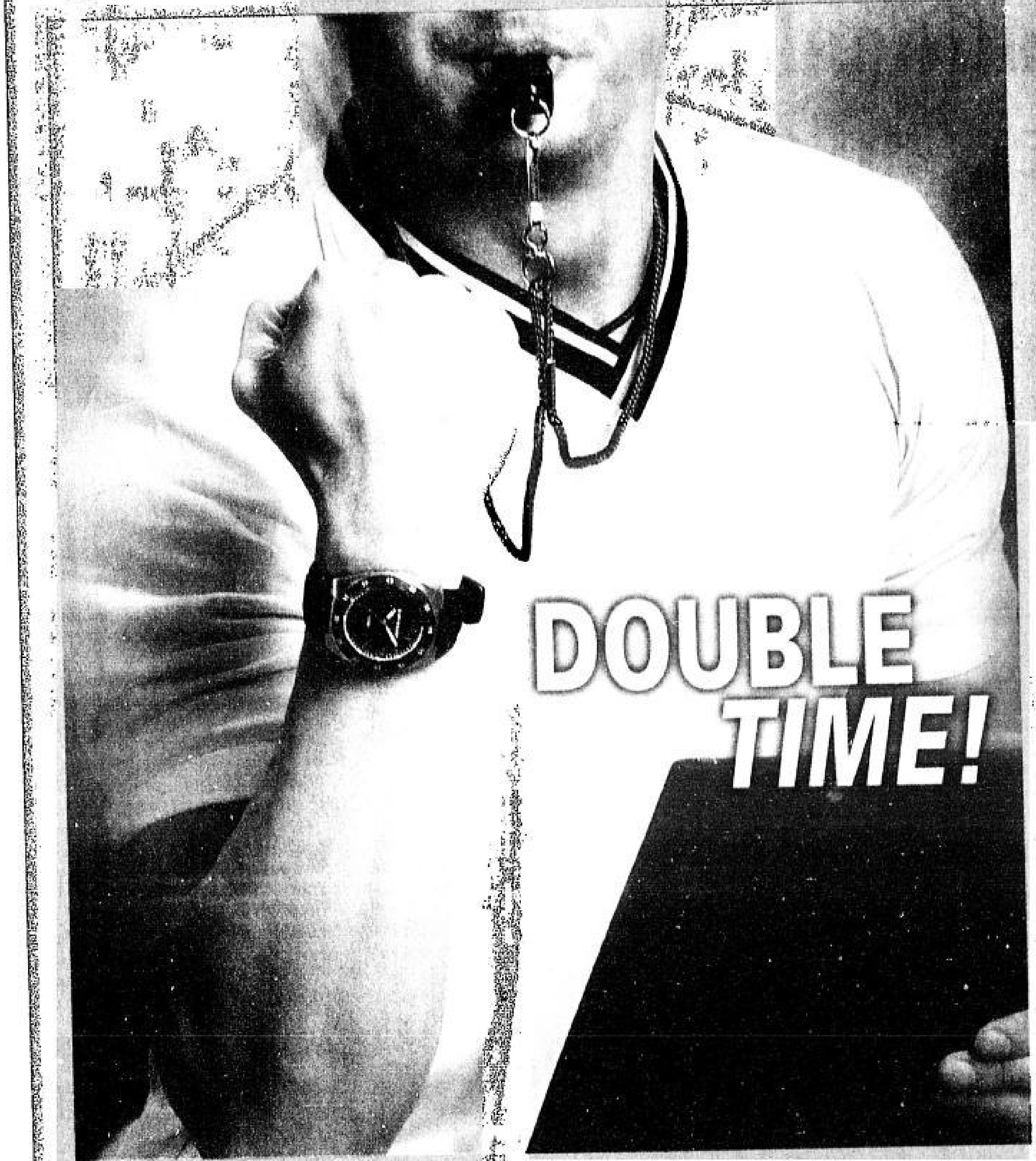
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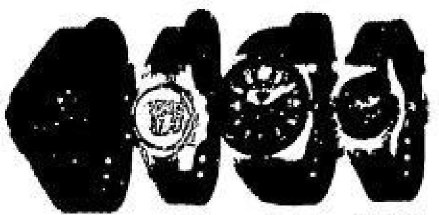

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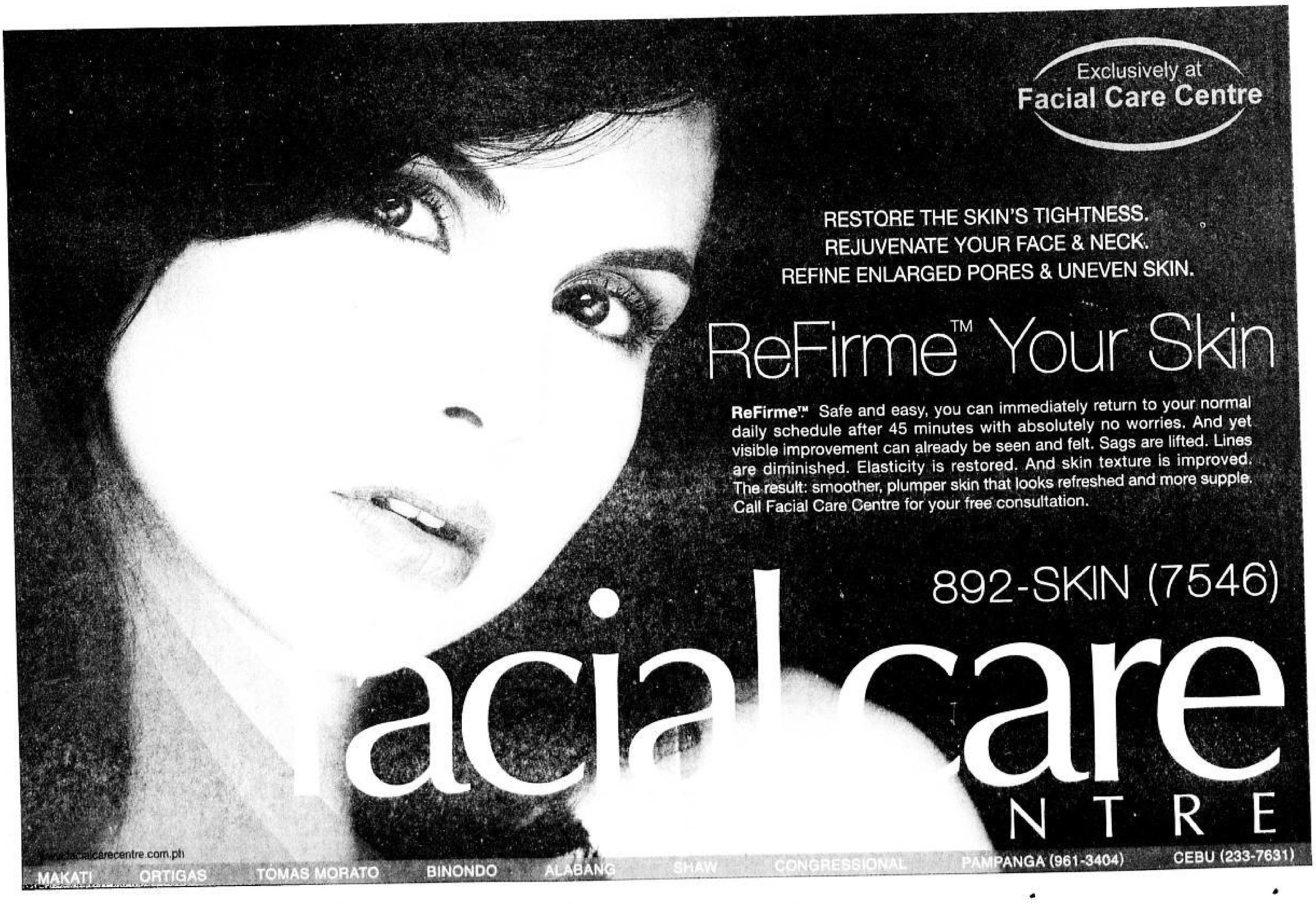

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Green groups taking fight vs greenhouse gases to grass roots

By TJ Burgonio

GREEN GROUPS HAVE AGREED to band together to help individuals, like farmers, get involved in projects that would neutralize carbon emissions in their own backyards.

Haribon, Klima and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have been locked in talks to form a consortium that would draw up a mechanism and propose community-based projects on carbon sequestration for small communities.

"We're in the process of forming a consortium that will constitute the Philippine environmental NGO response to climate change," Haribon chief executive officer Philip Camara said in an interview.

The consortium is expected to be organized by July.

The idea, Camara said, was to give individuals, families, entrepreneurs and communities the option to neutralize the greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, that they discharge into the atmosphere.

In the Philippines, some large corporations have taken steps to offset their emissions through carbon trading, Camara explained.

But right now, there's no such mechanism for individuals and communities to neutralize their contributions to global warming and earn "credits," hence, the need for a "micro carbon system," he said.

Under a micro-carbon system, individuals, families, and small entrepreneurs could take part in projects that would help them adapt to or mitigate the effects of global warming.

"For example, you're a group of farmers, LGUs and local NGOs and you want to respond to climate change. There's a whole range of projects you can do," Camara said.

Alternatives

Such micro-projects would include producing an alternative cooking stove for the wood-cutting and charcoal-using poor, reforesting the rainforests with indigenous species and, yes, shifting to "zero tillage" rice farming.

The proposed micro-carbon system will operate in the context of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. The only difference is that this will target small communities, not big corporations.

The CDM is a mechanism which helps developed countries achieve their emission reduction targets, and helps developing countries attain their sustainable development goals.

The protocol is an international and legally binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Under the CDM, companies in the country can earn revenue from carbon credits by engaging in greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. Credits can be traded between businesses or sold in international markets.

But there's a need to establish a set of standards that would measure a project's impact on the volume of carbon it had reduced.

Carbon credits

"Every project will have a standardized impact on carbon sequestration so that if an NGO on the ground is saying 'I'm introducing this project-planting and extraction of oil from jatropha,' this may mean carbon credit," Camara said.

But selling the credit in the market would not be enough to sustain the project, he said.

That is why, once the standards are established, it would be easier to group these individuals or communities implementing micro-carbon projects and to get funding for them, Camara said.

"That's the idea so that in some way, the big funds that are slashing around Kyoto Protocol's CDM can find their way into more relevant local projects," he said.

At present, only the projects of the "big boys" were being financed by the World Bank and other financing institutions, he said.

Through the consortium, the green groups hope to give small communities a chance to adopt energy-efficient projects and get financing for these, too.

Camara said the consortium would coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to draw up the standards.

National hero's home-shrine gets no respect from visitors

By Jerry E. Esplanada

VANDALS HAVE DESECRATED DR. JOSE Rizal's house in his hometown of Calamba City ahead of the national hero's 164th birth anniversary today.

Some visitors had written graffiti on the walls and railings of the balcony of the restored Filipino-Spanish colonial house, turned the old well on the property into a garbage dump and did other vulgar things that would make Rizal turn in his grave.

Staff of the National Historical Institute (NHI), which runs the shrine, had just applied fresh paint to the graffiti before our visit to the historical site.

"Some of the markings bordered on the obscene," said the staffers.

The vandals did not spare the old family well, NHI curator Ma. Luisa Valeza said. "But we cleaned up all the markings there."

The Rizals' deep well, now dry, is the only surviving feature of the original two-story house.

Aside from layers of coins, empty plastic mineral water bottles, soft drink cans and other trash are slowly filling up what the NHI touts as a "wishing well."

When interviewed, Valeza asked this reporter not to write about this and other issues, like the recurring controversy over the fidelity of the restored house to the original.

The trash is not just an eyesore, Valeza acknowledged, clearly, it's "an affront to the owners of the place."

The remains of Rizal's parents—Francisco Mercado and Teodoro Alonso—are buried near a narra tree about 20 meters from the well.

"Vandals and undisciplined visitors" are to blame, said shrine employees.

During pre-tour briefings, visitors are reminded that eating and drinking on the premises, smoking and, of course, littering are strictly prohibited."

"*Minsan, may mga pasaway. Pumapasyal lang yata dito para mag*-date (There are some really stubborn people. They apparently use this place just for dates)," observed a fieldman of Angels Garden, a private firm that does the shrine's landscaping.

Undermanned staff

In Manila, NHI executive director Ludovico Badoy said he knew the Calamba shrine staff was undermanned. An office employee, a gardener, two museum technicians and three security guards help Valeza run the place.

Add to that the usual budgetary woes of government agencies like the NHI. The government had allocated only P22.5 million this year for the maintenance of the 30 historical shrines and 400-plus markers administered by the NHI, an office attached to the Office of the President.

But Badoy asserted the bigger problem was "the attitude of some of our youth who visit the Rizal shrine."

Apparently, he said, they do not understand its place in history. "To desecrate the shrine is to denigrate our identity as Filipinos," Badoy said.

Meanwhile, a check of NHI records revealed that nearly 1.7 million visitors had visited the shrine in the last six years.

A closer look at the same files, however, showed a decline in the number of Rizal shrine tourists in the same period.

Storms and other natural calamities are partly to blame for the decline, said Valeza. Peace and order concerns have also slowed the line of educational and school tours, which comprise a huge chunk of shrine visitors.

On the controversy over the reconstruction of the house, Valeza agreed that the house was not an exact copy of the original. "Why insist on an exact copy...The more important thing is you can see and feel a representation of the past. We should be thankful there's a representation of what the young Rizal and his loved ones called home," he said.

Rizal's beginnings

According to the NHI, in this house "began the education and insatiable hunger' for culture that would make Jose Rizal the most formidable mind of his time, the writer of two inflammatory novels (Noli Me Tangere and El Felibusterismo), a poet who composed his masterpiece (Mi Ultimo Adios) a few hours before his expected death, a painter and sculptor of no mean ability, a linguist conversant in 22 tongues, a scientist and historian, an eye doctor whose fame spread on two continents, a nationalist as much as a man of the world, a reformer and a reluctant revolutionary, the consciousness of his nation for which he lived."

"It was in that house that the boy was shaped and molded, who would become the finest expression of his race," the NHI said.

(The Rizal shrine is open Tuesday to Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY Mayor Edward Hagedorn (standing, fourth from left) got National Artists Napoleon Abueva and Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera and artists Gus Albor, Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado, Elmer Borlongan, Antipas Delotavo, Julie Lluch and Mark Valenzuela to render Puerto Princesa's reforestation effort in art.

Art, and trees, to revive Puerto Princesa forest

EIGHT OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP ARTISTS, LED BY National Artists Napoleon Abueva and Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera, will gather in Puerto Princesa City on June 23 for the city's annual Feast of the Forest.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn will host the annual festival, during which some 30,000 residents will plant trees to dramatize their concern for the environment.

The eight artists will render the festival in their artworks, which will be donated to the city museum.

Aside from Abueva and Cabrera, the participating artists are Gus Albor, Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado, Elmer Borlongan, Antipas Delotavo, Julie Lluch and Mark Valenzuela.

The artists have committed to donate their works to the people of Puerto Princesa as a means of raising funds to protect the city's forest.

Conservation International and Smart Communications are supporting the program.

Artists who would like to participate in the activity are welcome. For inquiries, Lolit Garcia may be reached at tel. 523-6023 or e-mail lolitgarcia23@yahoo.com.

Corrections

IN THE June 16 issue, an item in the Corrections box on Page A4 mistakenly stated that the San Beda Red Lions defeated the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the 1978 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. What was stated in the original Sports article, 'Archers tame Lions, rule Filoil tourney,' published on Page A18 of the June 14 issue—that the Red Lions beat the La Salle Green Archers—was correct.

***

IN THE June 17 issue, an article published on Page H-1 of the Entertainment Section-'Tale of two dads'—misspelled the name of a method of childbirth preparation. The method is known as Lamaze—not "La Maze."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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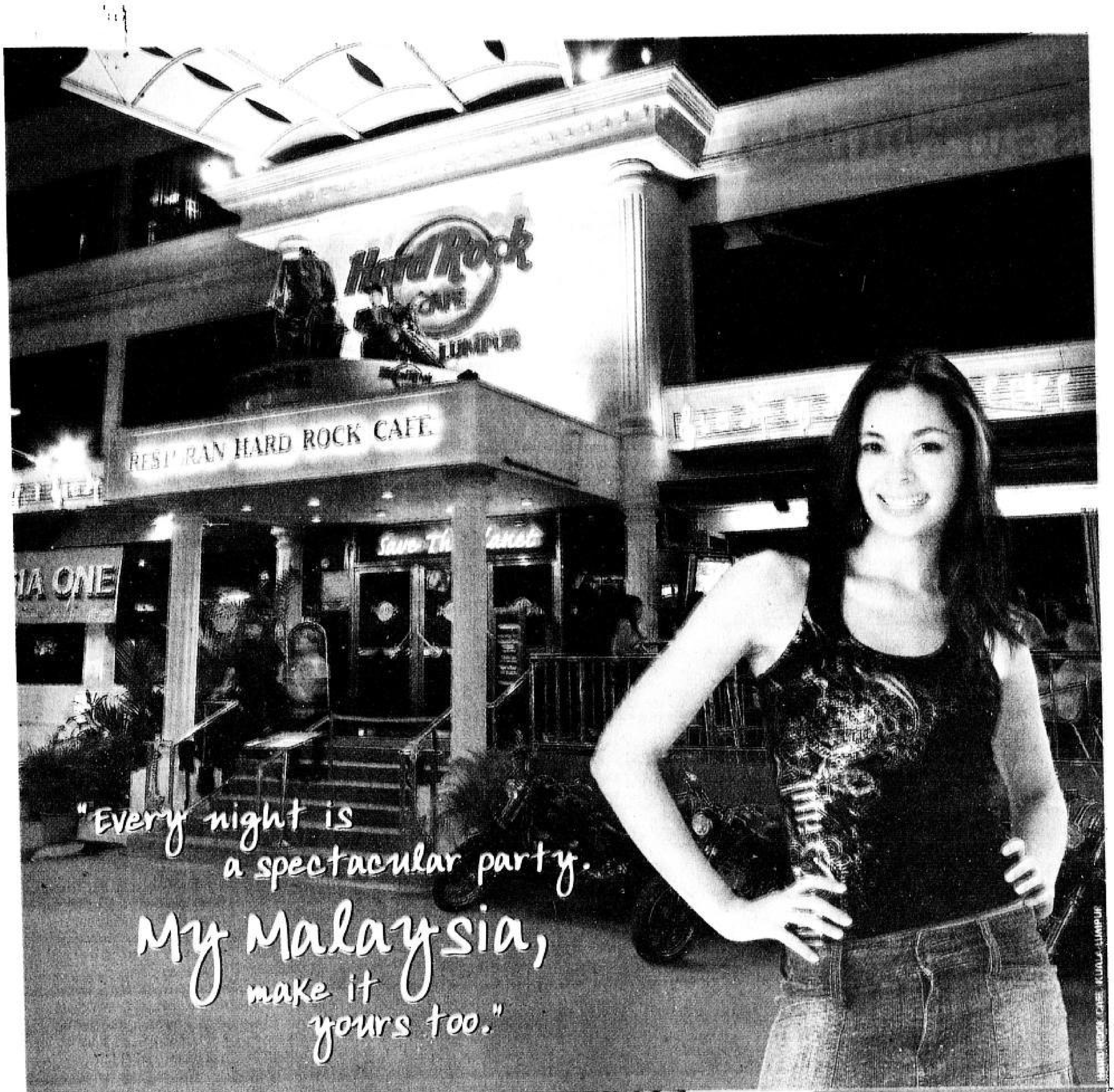
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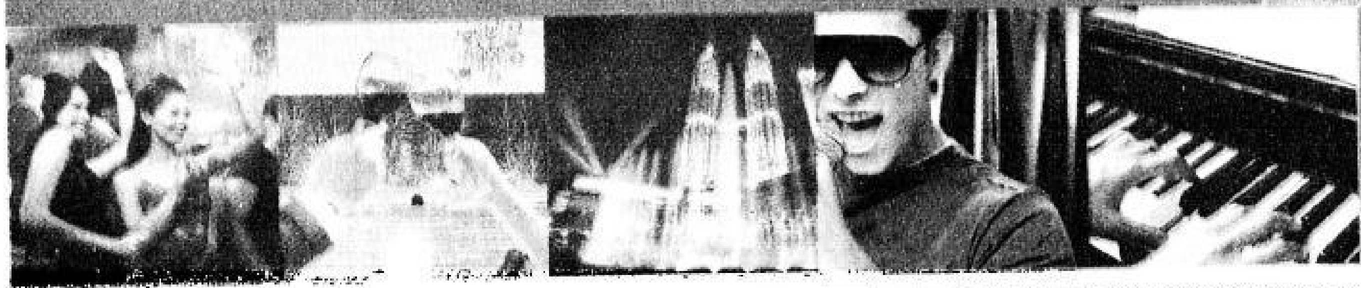

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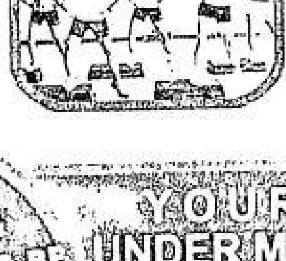

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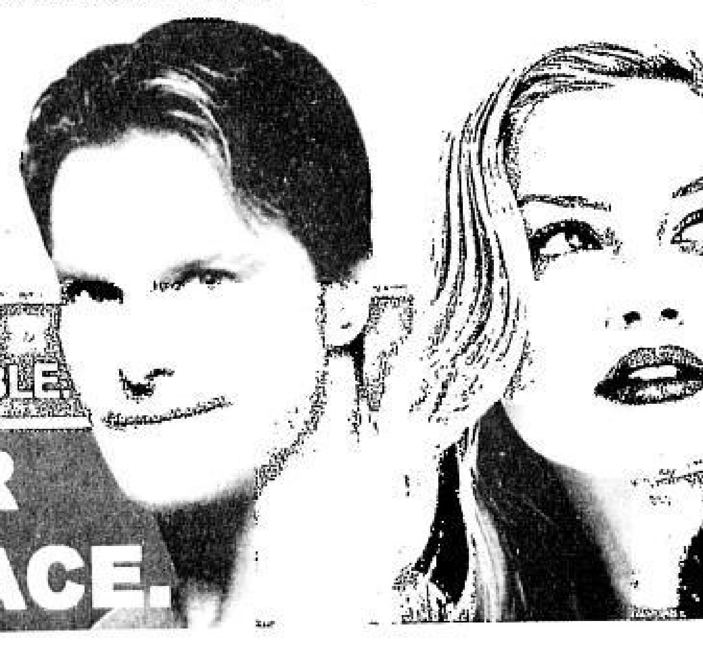

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Kidnappers surrounded

From page A1

seized in Payao town just after he celebrated Sunday Mass.

An official of the MILF, which has a ceasefire agreement with the government, has started negotiating with the 15-member group behind the abduction for Bossi's release.

The negotiations are being handled by Mohammad Nasif of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, a member of the MILF-Adhoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag), said Dolorfino, chair of the Ahjag's government panel.

Through the Ahjag, the government and the MILF cooperate in resolving criminal activities in Mindanao.

At a news conference, Dolorfino said MILF forces spotted Bossi and the 15-member armed group as they were traveling on foot Sunday afternoon to an undisclosed "forested" place.

"They saw that Father Bossi seemed OK, although it was very obvious that he was tired from walking," he told reporters.

An Army battalion and two MILF brigades have cordoned off the area where Bossi is being held.

"They (Bossi's kidnappers) have nowhere to run … their options are now limited," said Dolorfino.

Because the options of the group holding Bossi were limited, Dolorfino said he expected the kidnappers to "capitulate."

"They might negotiate for them to release Bossi and ask that they be allowed to escape. That's a possibility. Definitely these men will not allow themselves to be captured," Dolorfino said.

He said it would take time before Bossi's release could be obtained.

Rescue plan dropped

Dolorfino earlier said the military might be able to work for the release of the Italian priest in 24 hours.

He said the military had planned to rescue Bossi on Sunday night but the plan was dropped when it did not find an "opportunity" to ensure that the priest would be rescued safely.

"So this might drag a little but God willing we should resolve this, secure his release as soon as possible," he said.

That was why the troops cordoned the area on Monday morning, he said.

Dolorfino said he had no information on the identities of Bossi's kidnappers, including its leaders.

He also could not say whether it was the group of Waning Abdusalam as earlier believed by the military.

Ransom

Dolorfino reiterated that the armed men were said to be "newcomers" in the business of kidnapping for ransom.

The kidnappers are said to be from Zamboanga Sibugay, according to the official.

The MILF is checking a report that the kidnappers were asking ransom in exchange for the priest's freedom.

Kabalu said when reached by phone at around 4:45 p.m. yesterday that third-party sources had told the MILF that the kidnappers wanted "tens of millions" in ransom.

"But we are validating this information because the sources are not the informants, who have been talking with our Ahjag team," he said.

Kabalu said the demand was relayed Sunday night but the MILF decided to be silent about it pending confirmation.

"It was only now we talked about this because the information already reached (the media)," he told the INQUIRER.

Dolorfino said that his MILF counterpart in the Ahjag, Abdul Dataya, denied that Bossi's kidnappers were demanding "tens of millions" of pesos for the release of the priest.

He said that Dataya had yet to receive word from Nasif on the status of the negotiations.

Pumpboats destroyed

He said he was having a hard time contacting Nasif because the cell phone signal in the area was not good.

Dolorfino said that one week after the kidnapping, Nassif's group discovered two pumpboats, which were deliberately destroyed by the kidnappers near the new area where Bossi had been brought.

"They were able to catch up with the kidnappers," he said.

But Kabalu said MILF emissaries only managed to confirm that the kidnappers were in the area.

"As to actual contact, there had been none. Only confirmation from our informants on the ground," he said.

Kabalu said the MILF had already sent its forces to the area but they could not penetrate it because soldiers had also been sent there.

Brother desperate

Dolorfino said the MILF was ready to act against the kidnappers but it was reportedly wary of accidental encounters with the military.

"(Nassif) told me the place is highly saturated with Army soldiers," he said.

Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo, Philippine superior of Pime, said he wanted clearer updates on the priest's whereabouts and condition.

"We want clear answers," he said.

"No one from the authorities could give us a clear picture of the situation and it seems that no one is moving around and there is no coordination among people working for Bossi's release," he said.

Sandalo said Bossi's eldest brother Marcello had called him Sunday night, "and he really sounded desperate."

"I really wanted to say that (there is) some developments in the situation, but people (Task Force Bossi) would not give us clear information," he said.

Maj. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur, said "we are in the right direction."

Pajarito said the rescue efforts for Bossi would work because "there is high level of confidence between our forces and the MILF."

Bossi has been in the Philippines since 1980 and was assigned as parish priest of Payao, a coastal town in Zamboanga Sibugay.

With reports from Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao, and Reuters

After reading 'Noli,' you may now view Rizal novel

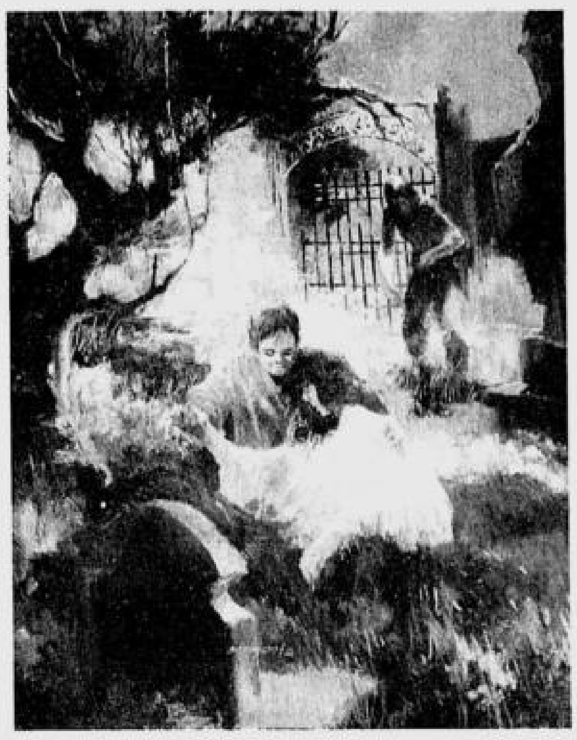
From page A1

tion of the 146th birth anniversary of the national hero today.

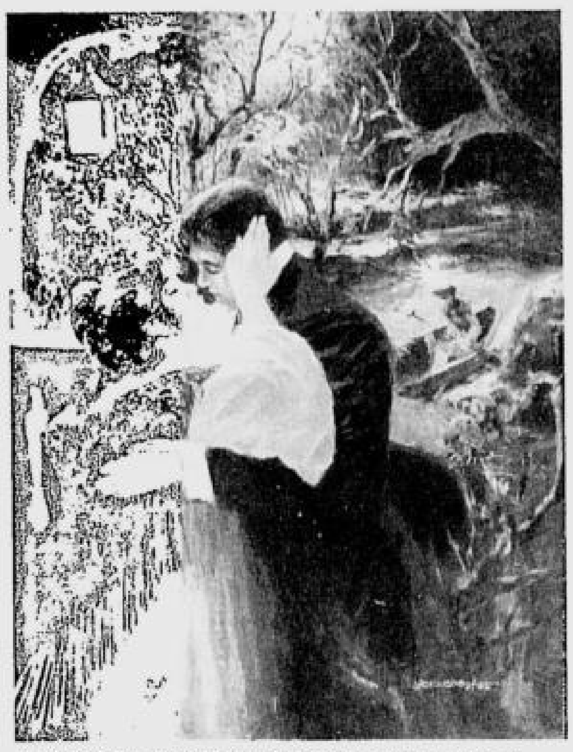
The painting series by Cruz shows that 120 years after its publication, the "Noli" continues to hold sway in the popular imagination and remains an intriguing subject to be mined in popular culture by artists and thinkers.

Only recently, Penguin Books published a new translation of "Noli Me Tangere" as part of its exclusive Penguin Classics line, effectively canonizing the work as one of the classics of world literature.

Penguin Classics bills the "Noli" as "the book that sparked the Philippine revolution" and "the great novel of the Philippines."



"NOCHEBUENA": A portrayal of Basilio and Sisa



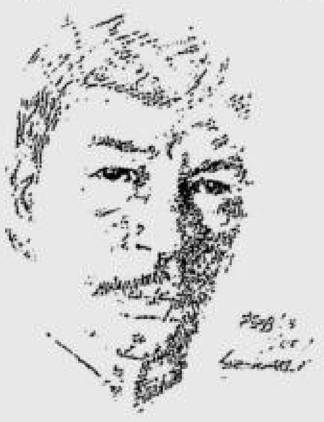
"IKAKASAL SI MARIA CLARA": Parting scene of Maria Clara and Ibarra

Childhood dream

Cruz, 74, said he had long dreamed of rendering in oil paintings some key scenes of the "Noli" and got the chance to do so only in the last several years after retiring from advertising and going into art full time.

He said his interest in Rizal's novel started when he was a young boy. As a young man, he would visualize scenes from the book "as if they actually happened yesterday" and as if he were an eyewitness to the events.

First published in Berlin in 1887, "Noli Me Tangere" tells the story of Crisostomo Ibarra, who returns from his European studies to find his old town in the grip of social inequity and decay. His efforts to introduce enlightenment and modernism are defeated at every turn by the Spanish colonial abusive civil and military officials and obscurantist friars.



SELF-PORTRAIT of artist Leonardo Cruz

Because of its scathing portrayal of Spanish colonial depredations, the book was banned in the Philippines, but copies were smuggled into the country for clandestine reading by educated Filipinos.

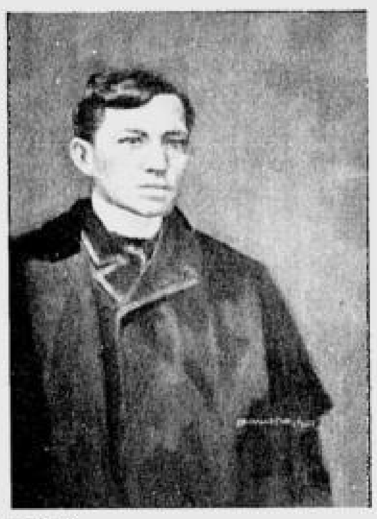
The "Noli," along with its dark sequel, "El Filibusterismo," which tells of the return of Ibarra as an avenging angel a la "The Count of Monte Cristo," became the bible of the Philippine revolution against Spain in 1896.

Although Rizal denied any involvement in the revolution, his name became the password of the Filipino revolutionaries, and he was executed by the Spanish authorities on Dec. 30, 1896.

Blood from the heart

Cruz said he did the paintings because he shared the feeling of Ferdinand Blumentritt, Rizal's German friend, who wrote the fictionist when the novel was published in 1887: "Your work, as we Germans say, was written with blood from the heart, and because of that, the heart also speaks."

Cruz added that he took to heart Rizal's explanation why he wrote the "Noli" in his letter to the painter Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo:



RIZAL

"I have endeavored to answer the calumnies which for centuries had been heaped on us and out country; I have described our social condition, our life, our beliefs, our desires, our grievances, our griefs; I have unmasked hypocrisy which, under the guise of religion, came to impoverish and brutalize us … I have raised the curtain to show what is behind the deceitful, glittering words of our government; I have told our countrymen our defects, our … cowardly complaisances with our miseries."

Tagged by art writers as a "classical impressionist," Cruz said he had sought to recreate the rhythm of life and death in a typical rural town in the Philippines in the late 19th century, or "San Diego," the fictitious town that is the setting of Rizal's novel.

Because Cruz's style runs along both classicist and impressionist veins, the paintings gravitate between vividness and moodiness. The figures are well delineated but cast in a bath of light, with chiaroscuro studies in some.

Chiaroscuro studies

And perhaps because Cruz had a background in comics drawing (when he was younger, he did illustrations for Bulaklak and Ramon Roces Publications and later, for Pendulum Publishing in Orange, California), the paintings have a comics-style friendliness—dramatically composed, dynamic, and nearly literal in their renditions.

Time will tell whether the paintings would give tribute to Rizal and his novel the way the drawings of Sandro Botticelli and Gustav Dore have done for Dante's "Divine Comedy" and Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

Generational clash looms in Senate

From page A1

of Generation X lawmakers like himself.

"The Senate should be ready for out-of-the-box thinking because if we continue to do the same things, we will have the same results," Escudero said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Escudero and his colleagues from Gen X—those born between the mid-'60s and the mid-'80s—are the new breed and the youngest crop of senators.

Escudero will be 38 years old in October, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano will turn 37 in the same month, while Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV will only be 36 in August.

The technology-savvy politicians made their mark during the election from their hip posters (Cayetano wore boxing gloves in his posters while Escudero posed like a model in his) to fast-rapping jingles to groundbreaking Internet campaigns.

Rocky months

Escudero expects the first few months of the 14th Congress to be rocky due to generational clashes in values and attitudes.

"We will have to go through a period of adjustment, of getting to know each other. But both generations should adjust. It shouldn't be just one side," he said.

But one of the longest-serving senators in the country believes it would be the young turks, not the senior citizens, who will change with experience in the Senate.

"The Senate experience is a chastening one; they will learn so much," said the 72-year-old Sen. Edgardo Angara in an interview.

Dress code

The generation gap came to the fore when the Senate's oldies raised their eyebrows at Escudero and his Gen-X colleagues when they attended the senatorial proclamation in dress-down attire—casual polo, jeans and loafers.

"Just because they talk and dress like they do doesn't mean we have to talk and dress like they do. I don't think they can dictate to us," Escudero said.

"Right from the start, they want to impose on us what they have been doing in the past—like what to wear. There was nothing in the invitation which said we should wear formal clothes. They just assumed we have to dress like them," he said.

"Another basic point of difference is our [manner of] speech. Just listen to them when they're on the floor: 'To my distinguished colleague, my former law partner, whose father was a good friend of mine.' Us kids, we don't have anything like that."

Escudero said senior senators should not take this as a sign of disrespect.

"When we don't do the things they want us to … it's not necessarily a rebellion, it's an admission that times have changed, that things cannot remain the same. We should learn from the past. If we keep doing the same things in the same manner, we will have the same results," he explained.

Lina sympathy

Former Sen. Joey Lina can sympathize with Escudero and his Gen-X colleagues. Lina was only 35—the minimum age requirement for senator—when he won the post in 1987.

"I hope they won't get intimidated by their elders. They should speak up for what they believe in," Lina said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

He related that he, too, had his share of "intimidation" from more senior colleagues during his time. But he said he got through those dog days by maintaining his confidence and with the help of some "enlightened" peers.

"I'm confident that the new batch of freshmen senators will perform well. Most of them have had legislative experience, having served several terms in the House of Representatives," said Lina, who has retired from politics and now manages The Manila Hotel.

Local execs push revamp of Cabinet

From page A1

Speaking through Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Ulap and the Governors' League warned the Palace that it would not look good for the Arroyo administration to have "people clinging on to their posts."

Last week, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced the impending shakeup not only of the Cabinet but also of heads of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

But following a denial by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye of a Cabinet shakeup, Ermita backtracked yesterday and confirmed that there had been no "official instruction" from the President asking all members of her Cabinet to resign.

Evardone said administration allies, who managed to win most of the local and congressional elective posts in the May polls, were wary that a "limited revamp will have no impact" on governance.

"People deserve an honest-to-goodness housecleaning," he said.

Evardone said the revamp should not be limited to replacements of Cabinet members and GOCC heads. "But more importantly (it should) include chopping off the excess fats of a bloated bureaucracy," he said.

He said that the last three years of a sitting President were "very critical in defining the legacy that she will leave to the Filipino people."

Ulap and the Governors' League said over the weekend that Ms Arroyo should implement the "South Beach Diet formula by just retaining the lean meat in the government to arrest the lethargic bureaucracy."

Suckers of resources

Evardone said that there were "many deadwood in the government bureaucracy."

"In the same breath, some GOCCs have been hemorrhaging the national coffers. Instead of contributing to push the economy upward, some GOCCs have been in fact suckers of the much-needed government resources," he said.

They then pushed for "Cabinet portfolio merger" and "abolition of redundant and inefficient GOCCs," he said.

Evardone said Ms Arroyo could create a "performance audit team," composed of the management experts from the country's top schools—University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila, Asian Institute of Management and La Salle—and the business sector represented by, among others, the Management Association of the Philippines.

"This crack team can be given a 30-day mandate to assess the performance of the Cabinet and GOCCs. I think this combination of academic and business giants can help PGMA come up with an objective assessment of the performance of the Cabinet and GOCCs," he said.

Evardone said he had suggested this to Ms Arroyo even before the election.

Streamlining

"Even corporations are streamlining, restructuring, reengineering just to be attuned to the needs of the time. How much more the government which has a delicate and sensitive mandate to cater to the needs of the people," Evardone stressed.

The confusion on whether Ms Arroyo had intended to include her Cabinet in the revamp initially targeting GOCCs was triggered by Ermita's pronouncements last week. He had told reporters that Ms Arroyo had asked heads of GOCCs and government financial institutions to tender their resignations.

"It's not courtesy resignation. The President asked them to submit their resignation so that she will have a free hand … to reorganize," Ermita then said. Asked repeatedly by reporters if the verbal order would include Cabinet members, he said: "Everybody. It goes under that principle that the President alone is the appointing (authority). Leave it to her. Everyone serves at the pleasure of the President."

But in a statement released two days later, Bunye said "no such order" asking the resignation of Cabinet members was made.

'Totally inaccurate'

"The President was very specific. Just to set the record straight, the President has indeed asked for the courtesy resignations of top officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations, including government financial institutions. However, any news purporting to expand the coverage of the order to include members of the Cabinet is totally inaccurate," said Bunye.

Yesterday, Ermita tried but failed to clear the air during an interview with radio dzMM.

He said Malacañang did not issue "official instruction" for the Cabinet members to tender their resignation. He said Cabinet officials had asked him whether there had been such a directive and that he replied "there was no instruction like that."

But Ermita said the reorganization of the Cabinet was "in the discretion of the President anytime." He said it had become an interesting subject after the administration's Team Unity fared poorly in the Senate elections.

Asked whether the President would soon ask her Cabinet to resign, Ermita said: "Well, you know, anything is possible."

He pointed out that he could not second-guess Ms Arroyo's decisions regarding her appointments to the Cabinet.

Fund lack threatens antidrugs campaign

By Alcuin Papa

THE COUNTRY'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL drugs will grind to a halt if the government does not allocate funds for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, a PDEA official said yesterday.

Supt. Benjie Magalong, acting PDEA chief of staff, told the INQUIRER all personnel of the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies serving in the PDEA would have to return to their mother units by July 4 if no funds were forthcoming.

This would leave the PDEA with a skeleton force, or only 55 agents, Magalong said. A total of 524 policemen are assigned to the PDEA. The 55 agents were recent graduates of the PDEA Academy but Magalong said the PDEA needed 1,900 agents to be fully functional.

"This will affect some of our ongoing operations against not only domestic drug syndicates but international groups as well," he said.

The Department of Budget and Management has yet to release the PDEA budget of P600 million.

"If the drug syndicates find out, it will be a fiesta. All of this will have an adverse impact on our operations," Magalong said.

He called on the government to act quickly to keep the PDEA going.

Republic Act No. 9165, which created the PDEA in 2002, mandates that the agency should be fully functional and organized with a full complement of agents from the PDEA Academy. Also, all personnel assigned to the PDEA would have five years to decide whether or not to join the agency full-time.

Nevertheless, Magalong said there were still "a few good men" in the agency.

"We will continue to function even after July 4. We have contingency plans to realign our budget and restructure some offices in the field. We will have to focus on and prioritize high profile targets," he said.

He said the agency planned to recruit 600 agents in the next year and a half.

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3 BI employees suspended for Viet-Am's escape

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION PLACED three of its personnel under preventive suspension yesterday in connection with the escape from the country of a Vietnamese-American terror suspect in 2005.

The directive to put the BI employees under six months' preventive suspension without pay was based on a Department of Justice resolution issued on Feb. 28 in connection with its investigation into the escape of terror suspect Vo Van Duc, according to new Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan.

The three employees were Benjamin Kalaw, former chief of the BI law and investigation division; Elsie Lobrin, BI medical section chief, and Marcelino Francis Agana, a confidential agent.

Libanan said in a statement that the DOJ resolution also denied the motion for reconsideration of BI Assistant Commissioner Teodoro Delarmente who had sought the lifting of the preventive suspension order against him in connection with the Duc case.

Despite this, Delarmente was not suspended because he had filed an appeal in the Office of the President.

Kalaw, Lobrin and Agana, on the other hand, did not appeal their suspensions.

Delarmente and Kalaw have denied involvement in Duc's escape.

Duc, the alleged leader of the Free Vietnam Revolutionary Group, was arrested in 2001 while allegedly manufacturing a bomb intended for use against the Vietnamese Embassy.

He was held at the BI detention center in Bicutan, Taguig City, before he escaped and then fled the country in 2005.

Libanan said yesterday the preventive suspension meted out to the three bureau personnel was not a form of punishment.

"Preventive suspension is not a penalty but a mere precautionary measure to prevent the employees charged from influencing witnesses or tampering with the evidence while their cases are being investigated," he said.

The DOJ ordered the preventive suspension of Delarmente, Kalaw, Lobrin and Agana after administrative charges were filed against them for grave misconduct and neglect of duty.

Four other BI employees were also charged in Duc's escape. They were Supt. Wendy Rosario, Insp. Noel Espinosa, Joselito Pagaduan and Alma Gonzales.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 19, 2007
11th Week in Ordinary Time
Romuald

1st Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

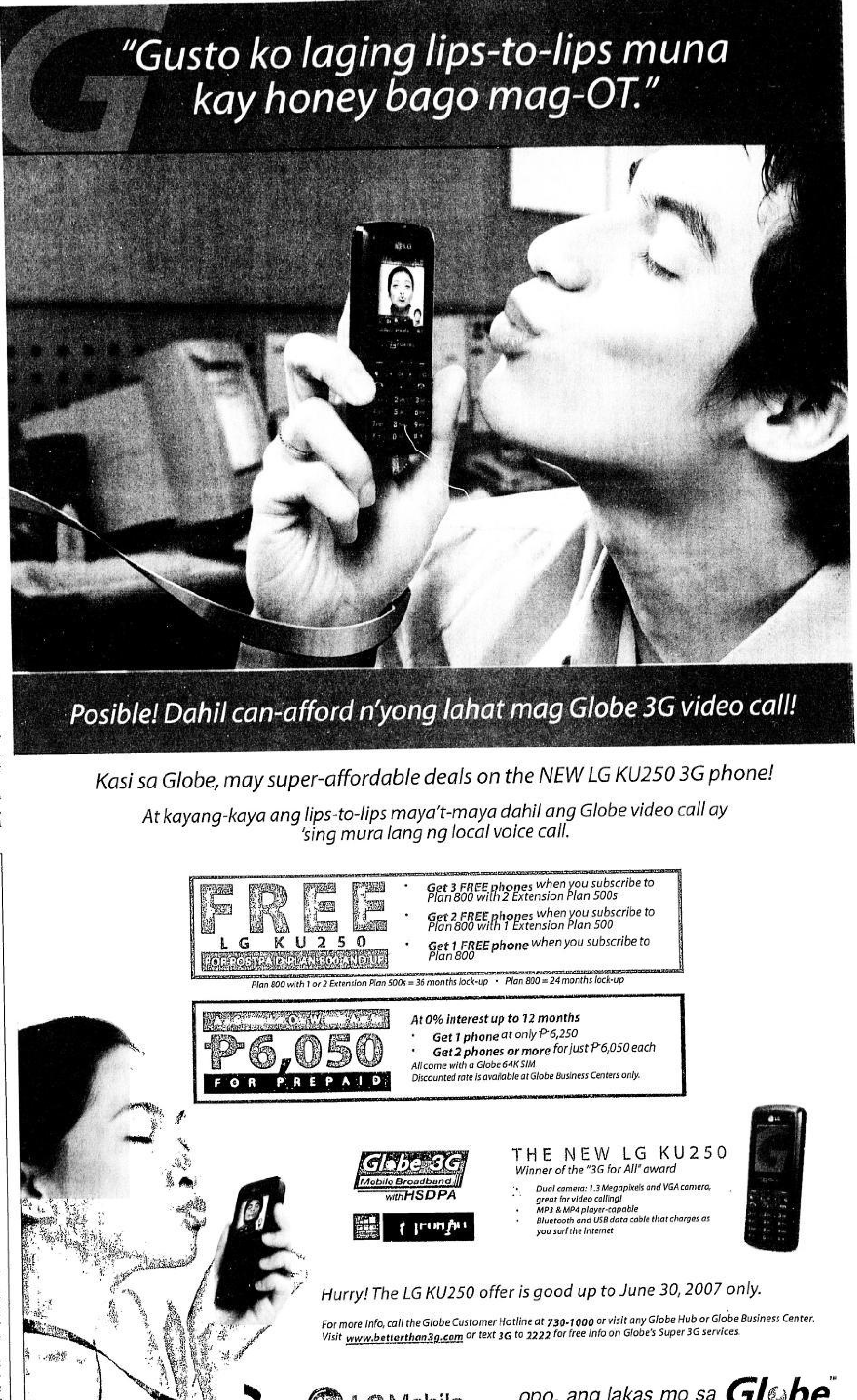
Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy. But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

"If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary

The early Church of Macedonia had to deal with severe poverty, severe trials, and yet they knew joy and generosity—they gave themselves to God and then gave just as fully of what they had to charity (a collection for the poor of the church). Paul is seeking to touch the hearts of the Corinthians so that they will be generous-since they are rich in every respect, it seems except charity. He is not ordering them, but testing them to be generous in return for the favor that has been given to them by the poor man Jesus crucified. How gracious and generous are we—not to our own, but to those far off and those who are in desperate need? Are we more like the Macedonians or the Corinthians?

Jesus is telling his disciples that it is not enough to help your own: family, blood relations, countrymen. We are to love everyone, starting with our enemies so that we might be like our Father who is compassionate, merciful and generous. Are we trying to be like our God and Jesus or are our spirits shriveled and stingy?



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PAF to open Aerospace Museum

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE will open the Aerospace Museum at the Villamor Air Base on June 29 to jumpstart the command's 60th anniversary celebration. next month.

The museum will offer a tour of Philippine aviation history, aerospace science and technology. Visitors will get to know the country's heroes in air defense.

"It portrays the rich cultural heritage of the Air Force and captures the bravery of Filipino airmen during World War II and the succeeding internal conflicts," said Col. Eduardo Diano, museum project manager and curator.

The brand new, three-story facility was among the buildings replicated for the PAF by the state-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), and private developer Megaworld Corp. which is undertaking a commercial redevelopment project in a portion of the air base.

P86-million museum

Diano said the old Air Force museum was torn down to give way to a commercial and recreational project of BCDA-Megaworld. Last year, the old museum hosted some 175,000 visitors, many of them students who were accompanied by their teachers and parents.

Construction crews are putting finishing touches to the P86-million museum, which has taken nine years of planning, design and construction.

Just within sight of the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3, the new museum stands at the intersection of the national roads spanning the Villamor Air Base complex, adjacent to the PAF's Aircraft Park, where 18 kinds of military aircraft had been permanently towed for public viewing.

"The museum will have two portions. The first floor will have interactive displays of modern aerospace science. The second floor will house the Air Force heritage and the history of aviation," Diano said.

View deck

The third floor has a deck which can be accessed by the public for excellent views of the air base and its surroundings.

Diano said the ground floor will house an interactive display of aircraft parts, among them turbines, landing gears, and engine cutouts.

Museum goers can also try "flying a plane" by boarding an old trainer and bomber aircraft and a jet simulator complemented by a wall projection of a pilot's 135-degree view.

The upper floor will feature photos of former Air Force commanding generals, pilots and airmen engaged in combat missions. A diorama will show scenes from aviation history.

The museum will also have a 50-seater theater where museum-goers can watch war movies, a 300-seater auditorium, and a library devoted to military history.

Diano said the Air Force might charge an entrance fee of P10 or P20 to cover maintenance costs and fund the development of other museums in air fields across the country.

Whistle-blowers wary of Abalos, says group

From page A1

candidate in the senatorial race.

In a telephone interview, Medina said the teachers were also wary about speaking to Abalos because "the problem with Abalos is that he is not a credible person to whom the teachers would open up."

"Abalos' lack of action (on allegations of cheating in Maguindanao) is the reason why he does not have the trust and confidence of the teachers," Medina said.

"This, coupled by the fact that he has not made any concrete action to go after the perpetrators of the Hello Garci scandal."

Medina was referring to unresolved allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano connived to rig the vote in the 2004 presidential election.

Both Ms Arroyo and Garcillano have denied any wrongdoing.

Abalos forgives them

"They are just besmirching me, but I forgive them," Abalos said on the phone when told what Medina said.

He said the teachers could submit their reports to Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer, head of Task Force Maguindanao, or to Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, who is the Comelec officer in charge of the region.

Abalos, speaking in English and Filipino, also said it was possible the reason the teachers had not officially reported to the Comelec was that "they might not really have any evidence."

Abalos said he was aware some people distrusted him and this was the reason he relinquished his position as commissioner in charge of Mindanao before the last elections.

"It was precisely because of the distrust that I divided (responsibility for) Mindanao among the commissioners," he told the Inquirer.

Medina said a clear indication that the Comelec would not spare from its probe the politicians suspected of involvement in vote fraud in Maguindanao would encourage the teachers to come out and testify.

"The people responsible should be held accountable, not just the Comelec people but also the politicians," Medina said.

Not the right person?

He said the teachers "are very concerned about safety and security" in the wake of the murder of Maguindanao schools district supervisor Musa Dimasidsing, who helped expose alleged poll irregularities in the province during the May 14 elections.

At least four Maguindanao public school teachers have told media and poll watchdog groups how they were either forced by gunmen to fill out ballots with the names of Team Unity (TU) candidates, or how gunmen filled out the ballots themselves.

"One thing is clear. Abalos may not be the right person to conduct the investigation," Medina said.

Medina said that among Maguindanao teachers he had been in touch with "through phones and text messages," there was a general perception that Abalos "is considered part of the problem," especially because he seemed to be supposedly slow in responding to controversies affecting the Maguindanao elections.

Teachers are waiting

"The teachers in Maguindanao had been waiting for them since the (creation of the) task force was announced. Until now, they have yet to receive word that anyone has gone there to investigate. It seems the task force is investigating in Manila," Medina said.

Lawyers for both the Genuine Opposition (GO) and TU agreed on the need to investigate controversial election supervisor, Lintang Bedol.

Bedol created a stir last week when he said that the municipal certificates of votes in his possession had been stolen. The certificates, or vote tallies, were supposed to support administration claims that TU candidates had scored a 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao.

"I don't know if the Comelec wants to protect or prosecute him," GO lawyer Sixto Brillantes told the Inquirer.

"He (Bedol) is an employee of the Comelec. The Commission should have kicked him out already, terminated his services. But he's still being given a chance," an exasperated Brillantes said.

Bedol has denied taking part in any electoral fraud and welcomed the investigation of the Maguindanao poll mess.

While elections did take place in the province, opposition lawyers Brillantes and Leila de Lima insisted the provincial CoC for the senatorial race was "manufactured and a sham."

They won't get away

Abalos, Sarmiento and Ferrer are scheduled to go to Maguindanao tomorrow to see for themselves if there are supporting documents to warrant the reconstitution of the special provincial board of canvassers to tabulate the election results.

The Maguindanao returns are crucial in determining who between GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri would be the 12th elected senator.

Brillantes said the GO lawyers had met and decided they would not let Bedol, as well as other controversial election officials, "get away" this time.

"These were the same people who did the cheating in 2004. Now, they are doing it again," Brillantes said.

Brillantes said that the opposition was concentrating for now on "getting Koko proclaimed."

"But afterwards, we will shift our focus on these election violators," Brillantes said.

Only six towns

Aside from Bedol, Brillantes mentioned South Cotabato election supervisor Lilia Radam.

TU lawyer Romulo Macalintal told reporters he was also "disappointed in Bedol's performance" as an election supervisor.

Macalintal said he would support a prosecution against Bedol if there was enough evidence against the election official.

But Macalintal said the Comelec should also look into how it could help its election officials who were "placed under pressure," apparently referring to influence wielded by political dynasties and warlords.

In Maguindanao, Fr. David Procalla, the overall coordinator of the PPCRV in the Archdiocese of Cotabato, clarified that the PPCRV's monitoring of elections in only six municipalities of Maguindanao did not mean that elections took place only in those towns.

Procalla said even before the elections, the PPCRV already knew it could only tap a limited number of volunteers.

In partnership with local Moro organizations and some funding institutions, the PPCRV's provincial chapter deployed volunteers to Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Buluan, Guindolongan, Sultan Sa Barongis and Pagalungan in Maguindanao.

Similarly, it was able to deploy poll watchers only in Parang, Barira, Buldon, Sultan Kudarat and Sultan Mastura, out of Shariff Kabunsuan's 11 towns, he said.

Limited funds

Procalla said aside from the scarcity of volunteer recruits, the PPCRV also faced limited financial resources which affected their mobility.

In its official report, the PPCRV's provincial network cited another problem which hampered recruitment of poll volunteers—the reluctance of some people to do poll work "given the reality that in this province, only the leaders decide whom the people should vote (for) and only a few dare to disobey at their own risk and that of their relatives."

Yesterday, Procalla told the Inquirer that "it's unfair to go to that conclusion (that elections only took place in six out of 22 Maguindanao municipalities) just because the PPCRV was only able to deploy volunteers in those areas."

Following Bedol's claims that his copies of municipal certificates of canvass were stolen, the Comelec should go on with its decision to retrieve elections documents from the municipal level, Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong said.

"In any case, municipal CoCs can be retrieved from election files kept under signature-sealed wraps, usually, stored in vaults under the custody of municipal treasurers," he said.

ARROYO

LACSON

Ping, Joker ...

From page A1

trayed himself during the election campaign as the protector of people's rights, was clinging to the blue ribbon committee to save his own hide.

"Sen. Joker Arroyo is concerned that a blue ribbon committee not under his control will investigate government-owned and -controlled corporations like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for financing his ads in the last senatorial elections like they did in his first senatorial run," Lacson of the opposition said yesterday.

Arroyo, the lone senatorial candidate of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi)—President Macapagal-Arroyo's political party—claimed the party bankrolled his election campaign.

Lacson has criticized Arroyo for allegedly sitting on the Jose Pidal case, an exposé on the alleged secret bank accounts of Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of the President.

A few hours after Lacson released his statement, Arroyo came out with a fiery retort.

"Senator Lacson has nothing to show except self-serving allegations. The blue ribbon committee is not the infamous Constabulary Investigating Service (CIS)," Arroyo said.

Tortured victims

Arroyo was referring to Lacson's involvement in the law enforcement agency that resorted to torture and extrajudicial killings during the Marcos regime.

"It is time that the Jose Pidal case be brought wide open. That would expose Senator Lacson's penchant for making wild charges without proof. As if he was still with the notorious CIS of the martial law years, which was littered with tortured victims who could not answer back," said Arroyo, a human rights lawyer during the Marcos regime.

Lacson has taken Arroyo to task for refusing to finalize the investigation of the Jose Pidal case, which Lacson initiated in 2003.

Present proofs

"What closure is he talking about? There can only be closure in any investigation at the Senate if the committee comes up with its report," said Lacson.

But Arroyo insisted that his committee could not move on because Lacson "has yet to share with his fellow senators his 'proofs,' 'documented findings' and 'voluminous documents and written testimonies of witnesses.'"

Arroyo cited a 2003 ruling on Lacson's exposé, which said that "Congress will proceed only when it has a shred of real evidence to go on so as to weave a larger canvass on which to paint the whole truth."

The committee noted that evidence must first be presented to prove that the Jose Pidal account was a "matter of public interest" before Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo's defense of right to privacy could be revoked.

Iggy Arroyo, a brother of Jose Miguel's, claimed ownership of the account named after their grandfather.

Enough evidence

Lacson claimed he had presented enough evidence to prove his case, "including the original copies of checks issued from the Pidal accounts."

He said he was not "lusting" for the post as Arroyo had charged but was only "interested in holding bad people in government accountable for their illegal acts," which the blue ribbon committee was supposed to do.

He shot back at Arroyo, saying that "no one has a Torrens title over the chairmanship of any committee in the Senate and it is not up to him to decide to whom he shall pass his chairmanship."

Because the opposition is the majority in the Senate, it has the first choice of what committees to lead, including the blue ribbon, according to Lacson.

Also known as the committee on accountability of public officers and investigations, the blue ribbon committee has jurisdiction over all matters relating to, including investigation of, malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office by officers and employees of the government, its branches and agencies, according to the Senate website.

The committee can also look into the implementation of the constitutional provision on nepotism and any matter of public interest on its own initiative or when brought to its attention by any member of the Senate.

Voters strike back at candidates

From page A1

spend P200 million as monitored by an election spending watchdog group.

Analyzing the correlation between media ad spending and vote generation, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Genuine Opposition campaign manager, said a candidate must not only strive for awareness—he must also endear himself to the voters.

Political strategists call this phenomenon the "conversion factor." Winning senatorial candidate Antonio Trillanes IV had lots of it; he won while in detention with very little media advertising.

Pichay seems to have learned his lessons well. Now, he knows his AIDA—no, not the opera, but the marketing communications acronym for Arousal, Interest, Desire, Action.

Pichay hopes to stage a comeback in 2010. By then, like a man who discovered fire, he will perhaps have understood the electronic fire that lights up a million pixels inside the television picture tube and learned how to tame it.

For the three candidates of the "Ang Kapatiran" party—Martin Bautista, a doctor; Adrian Sison, a lawyer-broadcaster; and Zosimo Paredes, a lawyer who resigned as executive director of the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission over the rape of a Filipino woman by an American serviceman—the elections became their baptism of fire in the topsy-turvy world of politics.

They said theirs was a new brand of politics, which put God above personal and political interests. The elections were, in a sense, a rude awakening

"There was too much focus on the advocacy (that) we forgot about the nitty-gritty of the political campaign," Paredes said.

Paredes said he and the other candidates also erred in relying on the Catholic bishops instead of generating support in small Church units at the barangay level.

Power of the laity

Fr. Ed Panlilio did exactly that in his successful run for governor of Pampanga. Involved in social action for most of his priestly life, he knew the power of the laity in temporal matters, like elections.

Sociologists believe that groups which espouse social causes have a moral responsibility not only to themselves but more importantly to those who embrace the cause, to make sure that the cause succeeds. Failure invalidates the cause; victory reinforces it.

This belief in ensuring the triumph of the cause drove civic groups watching the elections to make sure that, this time around, they would have all the bases covered, something they had overlooked in earlier elections.

Thus was born the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' Legal Network for True Elections, or Lente. Its task was to guard the canvassing of votes at the municipal and provincial levels, where massive vote padding and shaving had occurred.

Taysan heroines

All told, over a million citizens volunteered for poll watching duties all over the country.

Some lost their lives doing their jobs, like school teacher Nellie Banaag and poll watcher Leticia Ramos, who were killed when armed men burned an elementary school in Taysan, Batangas after the voting.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of the American republic, had written: "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure." Better to have more tyrants than patriots in the crucible of martyrs.

When the Commission on Elections finally figures out who won the 12th slot in the senatorial elections, life will go on for the rest of the country. But the daily drudgery of democracy never ends.

Roused from stupor

The poll watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for the Responsible Voting (PPCRV) said the perpetrators of election fraud were so smart they always managed to find a way to improve on their best efforts.

It had gotten so bad that in training their poll watchers, the PPCRV had to teach them also the latest techniques of cheating so that they could thwart them!

What the last elections demonstrated so vividly is that the so-called silent majority has been roused from its stupor, and elections will never be the same again.

The citizenry, in partnership with poll watchdogs and an activist news media, has rediscovered the power of the sovereign will of the people.

Democracy thrives only where the people remain vigilant, and are ready to embrace the Jeffersonian ethic.

In Arabia, legend tells of the phoenix, a mythical bird that dies in flames only to be reborn from its ashes.

Little stars

From the fire that consumed Banaag and Ramos, it is possible that the new phoenix of Philippine democracy has been reborn. It is reflected in the sea of candles held aloft by the volunteers of Father Panlilio on the night they all vowed to guard their votes with their lives.

In the classic love story of Shakespeare, Juliet, sensing doom, said to her beloved Romeo:

"When he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night,
And pay no worship to the garish sun."

A few of those stars came from the elections of 2007.

Ban on Pinoys to Lebanon set

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE overseas Employment Administration (POEA) yesterday said it would restore the total ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon following the resurgence of violence in that country.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz said she had crafted a directive on the ban, which was recommended by Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the government's interagency Task Force Lebanon.

"The labor department has ordered the imposition of the ban. It will be enforced this week as instructed by Vice President De Castro," Baldoz told reporters in an interview.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is part of the task force, tension continued to rise in Lebanon with daily bombings in the capital Beirut. A lawmaker, his son and six others were killed in one incident.

Security concerns have also been raised because of the intense fighting between the Lebanese military and militant groups operating in Palestinian refugee camps in Tripoli and Sidon.

Baldoz said that as far as she knew, only five Filipinos—three cooks and two domestic helpers—went to Lebanon since the ban was partly lifted in March.

RP 9th in world in porn earnings

BAGUIO CITY—THE Philippines ranks ninth in the world in revenue from pornography, according to a group which studies such things on the Internet.

Top Ten Reviews (TTR) said that in 2006, the Philippines earned about $1 billion from porn.

It did not say what form of pornography was the most profitable in the country but the Internet accounted for only one-fourth of the amount.

According to TTR, which also rates computer software, the porn industry worldwide generated $97 billion last year.

The top four countries in earnings were China, $27.4 billion; South Korea, $25.7 billion; Japan, $19.9 billion, and the United States, $13.3 billion.

A far fifth was Australia with $2 billion, the United Kingdom, $1.97 billion, and Italy, $1.4 billion.

The Philippines, Canada and Taiwan raked in $1 billion each, TTR said.

Revenue

TTR said the revenue from the porn industry was larger than the earnings of the top technology companies combined: Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix and EarthLink.

Every second, about $3,000 is spent on pornography, whether on video sales and rentals, cable or in-room pay-per-view programs, the Internet, mobile or phone sex, exotic dance clubs, magazines and tabloids, and novelties, TTR said.

Every second, more than 370 Internet users type adult-type terms on search engines, it said.

Filipinos are not yet that Internet-savvy when it comes to surfing for porn, however. Indonesians, Pakistanis and Vietnamese have been typing in words like "sex," "XXX" and "porn" on search engines, TTR said.

Despite the many different versions of local sex scandals, the Philippines is also nowhere near the top of major sex video producers.

But TTR, which supports Internet filter software, said child pornography figures were alarming.

The report said 100,000 of the 4.2 million sex websites offered child pornography. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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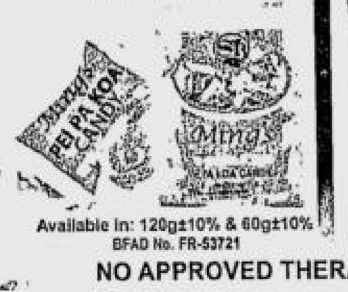

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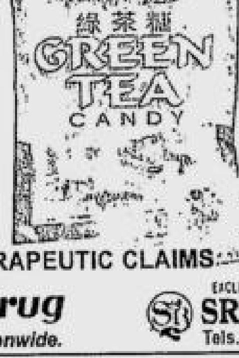

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) has made available from its reinvestment fund an amount for the procurement of Meter Reading Gadget for the year 2007.

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Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the office of Ms. Guia R. Victorio, BAC Chairperson.

Sealed envelopes containing the financial and Technical Proposals marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m. on July 09, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or Bidder's representative who choose to attend, otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 2, 2007 at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount equivalent to 2-1/2% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid for at least 150 days, starting from the date of bid opening.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects of infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **GUIA R. VICTORIO**
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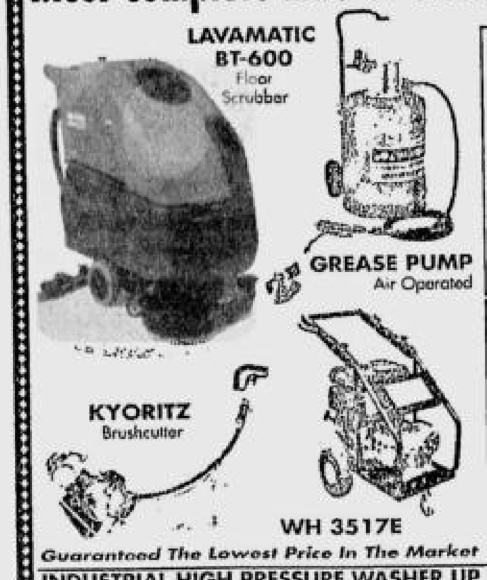

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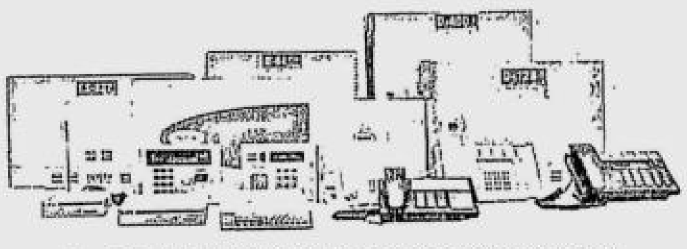

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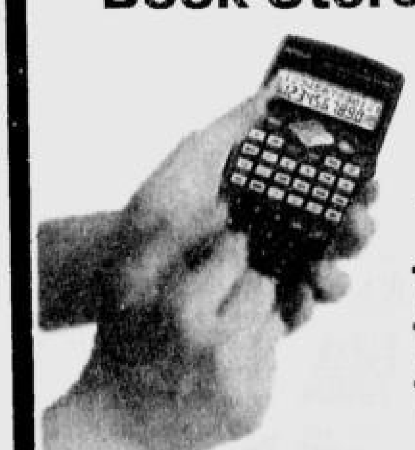

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Resolution?

EDITORIAL

IF THERE IS ONE GOOD THING THAT THE ELECTION of former Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV as senator has accomplished, it is that it has emboldened members of the military, including two generals, to offer to tell the truth about the extrajudicial killings and the "Hello Garci" case. We just hope that the three other former soldiers in the Senate—Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan—will support a call for an inquiry into these cases.

Just because the Armed Forces holds the weapons with which to defend the people, it does not mean that it is exempt from a legislative investigation. And indeed there is more reason to subject the Armed Forces to an inquiry on these two cases because it is alleged that some of its members have used their weapons not to defend the people but to kill some of them. In the "Hello Garci" controversy, ranking officers of the Armed Forces are alleged to have conspired with the Executive Branch to manipulate the results of the 2004 presidential election.

The cases of extrajudicial killings and the "Hello Garci" controversy cannot just be forgotten and filed away in the archives. We have to have a resolution in both cases. The people have to know the truth even if it affects the political fortunes of certain officials and certain generals.

It seems, from the initial reports, that there are two schools of thought in the military. One school believes that anything goes, that anything is permitted in the counterinsurgency campaign, even the extrajudicial killings of unarmed leftist militants, if these will help weaken the communist rebels. The other school is the one that goes by the book and does not sanction the killing of unarmed militants. An INQUIRER report indicated that retired Gen. Generoso Senga, former AFP chief of staff, belonged to the latter group. He said, in answer to a question, that it was not the policy of the military to kill militant activists.

If it is not the policy of the military, then who were the civilian official and the military officer who gave the green light for the extrajudicial killings? Who are responsible for the continuing killings of unarmed leftist militants? Are the civilian authorities still in control of the military? The people have a right to know, and a Senate investigation, which Trillanes will propose once Congress meets in regular session, will give them the answers.

As suggested by Pamalakaya, a militant fishermen's organization, the Senate committee that will investigate the extrajudicial killings should start with the testimony of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who earned the moniker "The Butcher" because in every place that he was assigned scores of political activists were assassinated.

In the case of the "Hello Garci" controversy, the expected testimony of some military officers who had direct knowledge of the alleged manipulation of election results should help bring about a resolution of the case which has hounded the Arroyo administration for the past three years. We hope that ultimately, the committee will be able to find out the truth, and propose legislation that would prevent a repetition of the electoral manipulation. Remedial measures are needed to prevent a repetition of the "Hello Garci" controversy in the crucial presidential election that will take place only three years from now.

Trillanes has some ideas, and he should have a productive record in the Senate if he is given enough space and leeway to perform his legislative work even under detention. We've seen during the past week how many restrictions were put in his way before he was allowed to attend his own proclamation by the Commission on Elections. Ultimately, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the AFP chief of staff, relented, and allowed him to leave his detention cell. Esperon probably thought that he would be courting public outrage if he went against the wishes of 11 million voters.

The Executive Branch, despite the calls of local and international officials and organizations for a thorough investigation of the extrajudicial killings, has done nothing but spout a lot of rhetoric and go through the motions of an inquiry. In the "Hello Garci" case, it even set up roadblocks to a fact-finding investigation. If Trillanes could ferret out the truth about the extrajudicial killings and the "Hello Garci" controversy, he would be rendering a signal service to the nation.

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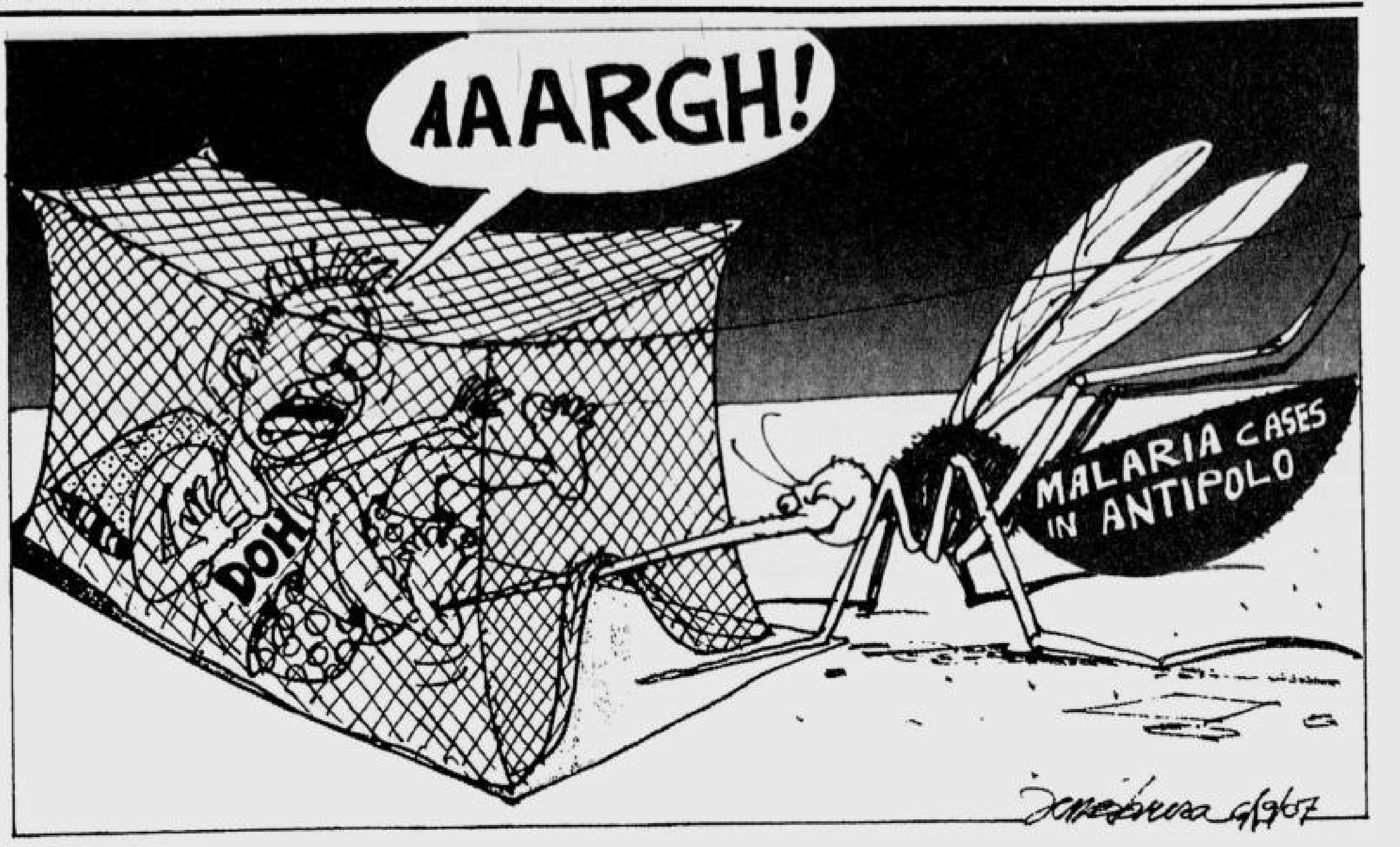

A vital first step

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"YOUR MOST URGENT PROBLEM IS WATER," President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told laid-back Cebu officials when she visited. "You have several options," she reminded businessmen who pay three times more for water than their Manila counterparts do. "Decide in 30 days. Decide now."

They waffled instead.

The President's shape-up call came in December of 2001. In those six years, then Gov. Pablo Garcia and City Mayor Tomas Osmeña never cobbled a coherent water policy that ensured supply and conservation. Today, Cebu's poorest pay peddlers 10 times more for murky water than those with piped connections in gated enclaves.

Within this "policy black hole," the President over the weekend signed Republic Act 9486. This law consolidates fragmented management of residual forests and watersheds. One agency will oversee six interlocking national parks and watersheds, explains the law's low-key author, House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas. "It seeks to protect what's left of the province's vital water resources."

Which is not much: just 29,062 hectares of thin forest stands. But this common resource seeps across four cities of Cebu, Talisay, Toledo and Danao, plus the towns of Minglanilla, Liloan, Compostela and Balamban.

RA 9486 is a tiny step to reverse decades-old policy myopia. Garcia and Osmeña, in 1997, stonily ignored Cardinal Ricardo Vidal and Catholic businessmen who warned that fake maps would slice into ecologically brittle watersheds. Frustrated by this tolerance of falsification, they got President Fidel V. Ramos to issue Proclamation 1047 that corrected the tampered boundaries.

"For Cebu officials who flopped on water policy, Proclamation 1047 is a version of the ghostly finger that traced, on the plaster walls of King Nebuchadnezzar's palace, 'mene, mene, tekel, upharsin,'" the Sun Star wrote. "You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting."

There's no substitute for water. Annual deaths from diarrhea are higher than from Mindanao's armed conflicts. In 24 provinces, from Benguet to Cebu to Tawi-Tawi, one out of every five drink from easily-polluted springs. And the province is locked into serial outbreaks of water-borne epidemics.

Also, there are more buckets at those dank wells. In 1970, there were 36.6 million Filipinos. Today, we are over 85 million. For every Filipino, only 1,907 cubic meters of fresh water is available. "In Southeast Asia, this makes us second to the lowest in fresh water availability," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes notes. Come 2010, water shortages could be a full-blown national problem.

But in interlocking cities, water problems often erupt earlier. Births and migrations will ratchet the demand in Cebu from 265,000 cubic meters today to 306,000 cubic meters by 2012. And aquifers are crumbling as overpumping sucks out twice as much water than what is recharged. More pumps are conking out from brackish water.

Cebu's water-short factories, notably in its export zone, are hobbled. Desalinated water could cost investors in South Properties P68 per cubic meter. That's almost triple the cost of water from Carmen that Ayala-Stateland Consortium proposed to pipe into the city. "Overpriced," snorted Mayor Osmeña of Carmen water.

Migratory fish schools swim across exclusive economic zones on maps. Water likewise spills across paper borders—and egos of local officials anchored to jurisdiction maps. And this common resource seeps across four cities and four towns. Osmeña of Cebu, for example, cannot stand Gullas of Talisay.

Population also stomps on official diktats. The second wave of migrants, invading watersheds in foothills, differ radically from the first wave of farmers, says the study, "Mountains of Cebu."

Many are affluent families, seeking relief from traffic gridlock, crime and urban decay. "The rate at which people moved into Cebu's foothills tripled the pace set by the lowlands," reports this San Carlos University-East-West Center study. By 2020, people who cluster in hills and watersheds that ring the city may swell, from a fourth in 1995 to a full third.

The proportion of those living on these denuded slopes may stabilize at 27 percent, wrote demographers Daisy Cusi and the late Fr. Wilhelm Flieger, SVD. This population will "grey." Plush subdivisions, in the meantime, mushroom cheek-by-jowl with squatter colonies, a ready source for maids, gardeners, houseboys, etc.

"This type of informal 'social contract' ... is leading to a complete land use change" Cusi and Flieger noted. Watersheds are affected. "The uninformed drift of both provincial and city governments leave orderly change, in these vital watersheds, to the whims of carpetbaggers," the Cebu Daily News said.

Is the Gullas law "too little, too late"? Protracted neglect has raised corrective costs. Damage to Mananga watersheds, for example, whittled the capacity of a proposed 79-meter dam by half even before it's off the drawing boards.

"I don't think about it," scoffed Osmeña, when asked about resurveys of tampered maps. "When it rains, you see where the water flows."

In a searing response, a teacher snapped: "The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain, too. But why do His Honor's mental processes screech to a halt when choice chunks of real estate in watersheds are involved?"

Over 8,944 claimants wave tax declarations to 12,987 parcels within protected watersheds, warned a Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water study. Why indeed?

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Resign

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY FAVORITE STORY ABOUT SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY comes from my interview of a Japanese man some years ago. He was the one who was implicated in the Cherry Hills tragedy.

Cherry Hills was the housing project in Antipolo that was nearly-buried by a landslide in 1999. Some 59 persons died and scores of others were injured. The incident triggered angry recriminations from the survivors and kin of the victims. At the end of the day, the officials of the company that had put up the subdivision were either nowhere to be found or were pointing to each other or to City Hall. Except this Japanese who was identified as one of the financiers of the project.

He told me, yes, his group, a left-leaning organization in Japan, had provided a good deal of the funds for it. They found the idea of putting up a decent and inexpensive housing project commendable, one in keeping with their ideals. He could not understand what happened, he said. He had been assured by his Filipino partners that all the technical work along with the legal one had been done.

He was assailed by the deaths, he said, and as he spoke of it tears began trickling down his eyes. He would personally make sure his group made restitution for what had happened. And at the end of the day, he said, whatever assurances he might have gotten, he himself was responsible for what happened. "I am to blame," he said, pointing to himself. "I am sorry to Filipino people."

There and then, I caught a glimpse of the vast divide that separated our culture, presumably a Christian one, from that of other Asians, presumably heathens. We blame God and other people, and make noises about retribution. They blame themselves and nobody else, and make amends for the harm done.

I remembered this when I read about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo demanding that her people resign. The ostensible reason for it is, in the words of Eduardo Ermita, to allow her to have a free hand to "move the country forward." The un-ostensible, and patent, reason for it is to punish the people who pulled her plans back by failing to push her senatorial candidates forward. She seems particularly incensed that Pagcor chief Ephraim Genuino may have diverted Pagcor money to the campaign of her two kids rather than to TU. She seems to not appreciate that Pagcor money is taxpayers' money and may not be used in any campaign. Or indeed that using it for the TU would have produced exactly the same result as it did for Genuino's offspring—they lost.

But this display of finger-pointing leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Truly, given the emergence of a culture dedicated to it, Mike Defensor's decision to concede early, which was really just saying he wouldn't bother to count on the Maguindanao count, or lack of count, to jack up his sagging fortunes, takes on the aspect of a grand gesture. In pitch dark, the barest shimmer is dazzling light. But you wonder when we would ever reach a point when an official, not to speak of the highest official (in this case unofficial) of the land, would say: "I am responsible. I am to blame. So sorry to Filipino people."

At the very least, it's—again—the principle of command responsibility. The same principle that says that when your military goes on a killing spree, or gleeful slaughter, you are responsible for it as commander in chief, whether you gave the order or not, whether you blessed it or not. The results of the senatorial election are a rejection by the people of this government, as forceful and dramatic as if they had stormed Malacañang with torches and threatened to put it on fire if its occupant did not leave.

In other countries, particularly those with parliamentary systems—the kind of system GMA and Joe de V and their ilk want in its entirety, except for its substance—it is customary for heads of state given a staggering vote of no confidence to resign posthaste. In Asian countries like Japan and Korea, it is customary for officials exposed to such epic scales of embarrassment and humiliation to repair to their bedrooms and alone in the dark, with only their demons to confront, disembowel themselves.

At the very most, who was really responsible for TU's debacle? Who was responsible for the opposition winning big notwithstanding that it had failed to directly solicit the protest vote by harping on the one thing, or person, this country's inhabitants, citizens and voters were sick of? Who caused Antonio Trillanes, who had no electoral experience, no funds, and no freedom to become a senator of this country?

Well, of course, Prospero Pichay and Mike Defensor and Chavit Singson also had something to do with it: You looked at them and you voted Anyone-But-TU. As indeed did: Hermogenes Esperon, whose goons were making life hell for Bayan Muna and other party-list groups; Benjamin Abalos, whose bigger goons were making life hell for the opposition; and the two Gonzalezes goons in, by, and of themselves, the biggest ones, whose lives are a living hell they have to make the rest of the world's that, too. You looked at them and you elected to leave the country, but not before voting Anyone-But-TU.

But in the end, who was responsible for the TU having no chance to win other than by the same scale of cheating that took place in 2004? Indeed, even if it were true that GMA has called for the mass resignation of her people to move the country forward, who is holding the country back? Who has caused this country to have lost all sense of purpose, apart from all sense of right and wrong, wanton lying, stealing and killing blighting the land? Who needs to resign?

Clue for this Battle of the Brainless: She was the one who said, "I ... am sorry ..." three years ago. But promptly blamed this country's political culture, and not herself, for cheating.

March of speakers over the decades

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THIS COLUMN FEATURED various aspects of our legislative history, as culled from the new commemorative book of the House of Representatives, "Assembly of the Nation." This handsome coffee-table book traces the evolution of the House over the past 100 years, from the Philippine Assembly created by the Philippine Bill of 1902 to the recently adjourned 13th Congress. Before I close my notebook on the House centennial, let me talk about the march of speakers over the decades.

Manuel Roxas, the Second Republic's first president in 1946, enjoyed four terms as speaker in the American colonial period. Cornelio Villareal and Jose B. Laurel had three terms each. Eugenio Perez had two terms. In the post-Edsa years, Jose de Venecia was speaker continuously from 1992 to 2007, except for the period between 1998 and 2001, when he sat it out after losing to Joseph Estrada in the presidential race. With four terms, JDV has the same record as Roxas, but should he win a fifth term next month, he would become the longest-ruling speaker in the postwar era and at par with Sergio Osmeña Sr., the only speaker to have held five terms.

* * *

In terms of production, the post-Edsa Congresses that included one long term of Ramon Mitra and the four of De Venecia were bountiful years, during which laws that had the greatest impact on the nation were enacted. One of them was the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law during Mitra's 8th Congress. By contrast, the three years of the 11th Congress, from 1998-2001, had three different speakers—Manuel Villar, Arnulfo Fuentebella and Feliciano Belmonte—and produced the least number of laws. This was not because of the inability of these three speakers to lead the chamber, for they were able leaders, but its instability hampered its productivity. Those were the years that saw the ouster of President Joseph Estrada and the sudden succession of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. By contrast, JDV's four terms, although marred by two impeachment attempts that failed, proved the most productive because they were years of continuity and creative leadership.

* * *

As a fitting tribute to the centennial celebration, Cecile Alvarez and I featured in our dzRH program last Sunday Speaker De Venecia, who presided over the 13th Congress. Queried on what legislation the House passed during his four terms spelled a vital difference for the nation, he cited as its "biggest single achievement" the passage of the E-Vat law which brought P100 billion in extra income to the government and enabled it to build various infrastructure projects and pay its external debts ahead of time. JDV also cited the Build-Operate-Transfer law that he authored, which netted the country P30 billion and allowed it to build vital infrastructure projects in earlier years without spending a cent. During the Ramos presidency alone, said JDV, the House passed about 220 laws, among them one that granted emergency powers to FVR to solve the power crisis that started during the Cory years. He also cited the creation of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) early in FVR's term, which could be considered the beginnings of a parliamentary system in that the executive and legislature branches cooperated in the passage of laws.

In our program, De Venecia also recalled that among the most emotionally difficult times for him was when he and the late Senate President Neptali Gonzales presided over the canvass of votes by Congress in the 1998 presidential elections, which saw his opponent Estrada winning. He said he made sure Congress did not delay Estrada's proclamation and it fell on him to raise his rival's hand in Congress. He also recalled with a laugh that during his four terms as speaker, there were seven Senate presidents, some of whom were "friendly" and some "not so friendly."

* * *

In May last year, "Something to Crow About," the modern zarzuela written by National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces and directed by Cecile Alvarez, the youngest Ramon Magsaysay Awardee (for theater arts), premiered in Manila in time for the 38th Unesco-International Theater Institute Congress here, with Unesco Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura leading the international delegates in viewing it. Last Friday, Roces and Cecile brought this Pinoy modern zarzuela to the United States, where it will play in three cities in the next 10 days. An entertaining song-dance-acting theater production about the colorful Philippine life, with our cockfighting sport as the "star," the zarzuela will be the first Filipino performance staged in the US since Raul Manglapus' "Manifest Destiny: An Evening of Yankee Panky," off Broadway nearly two decades ago. Roces and Cecile won the Aliw Award for best play and direction of the zarzuela, respectively, last year.

"Something to Crow About" opens with a cast flown from Manila and some local talents this Thursday, June 21 at New York City's La Mama Theater on 74 A. East 4th St., between 2nd & 3rd Avenue. It will run in NYC until Sunday, June 24, after which it will move to the West Coast for a one night performance on June 28 at the Alex Theater in Glendale, California. Its final performance will be on July 1 at the University of Sta. Clara's Mayer Theater in San Jose, California, about 45 minutes from San Francisco.

Among the talents from Manila will be George Young, president of McDonald's chain in the Philippines and an amateur but well-known tenor. Young plays a cameo role as the judge who rules in favor of a poor *sabungero* victimized for P80. I hope that the US-based Filipinos can come, support and enjoy this pioneering Pinoy production. Cecile can be reached at 0920-9010-969.

A heart for the media

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S AN INTERESTING FOLLOW-UP TO last Saturday's column on the impending Bektas divorce and the Gutierrez family's penchant for media control.

If you will recall, Ruffa and her mother Annabel had admonished INQUIRER show-biz columnist Dolly Ann Carvajal not to make "*sawsaw*" into the goings-on between the actress-TV host and her wealthy Turkish husband. The hostility between the family and the columnist was feasted on by the rest of the entertainment media, who apparently saw no contradiction or even irony in their own "*sawsaw*" in the Bektas controversy.

Apparently, seeking to rein in media interest or at least directing it elsewhere is not unique to the Philippines. Obviously, too, movie stars everywhere, ever conscious of their image and the marketing of it, are desirous of managing their relations with the media, especially the way they are projected.

Angelina Jolie, described by one news organization as an "international celebrity do-gooder," found herself assailed by hostile media when reporters covering the premiere of the film "A Mighty Heart" were first asked to sign an agreement that required them to agree not to ask her personal questions, to limit use of the interview to the promotions for the movie, and not to use the interview "in a manner that is disparaging, demeaning or derogatory to Ms Jolie."

Most of the media outlets declined to sign, reports said, and Jolie's lawyer was later forced to admit that a "bone-headed, overzealous lawyer," obviously referring to himself, was responsible for the statement. "This was my creating something to protect her from the press' talking about personal matters, a document that would limit discussion to the film," the lawyer said. "But it was drafted overbroadly. It was well intended, but I understand how it was received." Jolie herself had no comment.

* * *

IRONICALLY, the movie that Jolie was promoting was "A Mighty Heart," where she portrays Mariane Pearl, the widow of American journalist Daniel Pearl who was kidnapped by extremists in Pakistan and eventually beheaded.

The premiere of "A Mighty Heart" in New York, which provoked the legal tussle, was for the benefit of Reporters Without Borders, described as "a Paris-based nonprofit organization that champions press freedom around the world."

As a journalist, I would understand why reporters, even entertainment writers, would balk at being asked to surrender their freedom while writing about a movie about a journalist who gave up his life in pursuit of his profession.

Still, says a report, this wasn't the first time Jolie or her agents had asked reporters to sign an agreement regarding the scope of their questions or reporting. At the height of the scandal involving Jolie, Brad Pitt and Pitt's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston, Jolie had asked reporters to sign a similar agreement during the promotions for the Pitt-Jolie movie "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," where their affair was apparently kindled.

At that time, journalists agreed to sign the agreement. After all, an interview, even one highly restricted in scope, was still highly anticipated, given that Jolie and Pitt were then the hottest couple in Hollywood—and still are. Maybe it was the press' ready acquiescence then that inspired the lawyer to try his luck a second time.

* * *

BUT as I said in Saturday's column, dealing with the media is like handling a double-edged sword. On one hand, actors and other entertainment figures need the media to provide free publicity and to stoke public curiosity and interest in them. On the other, once media interest is piqued, they can turn into an intrusive, unceasing and even uncaring presence.

That's why actors hire an entire army of media handlers, image advisers, stylists and fashion consultants just to make sure they not only get good press but also look hot while chasing after all that publicity.

Too many times, the stars and their spin masters succeed, especially with a scoop-hungry entertainment press who value accessibility more than independence. But these days, the media landscape has expanded inexorably, and if columnists or show-biz talk show hosts have no qualms about schmoozing with stars and courting their favor, there will always be nameless bloggers and electronic paparazzi willing to subject the stars to embarrassment or scathing reviews.

* * *

STILL, even just the attempt to limit the questions and the use of an interview by reporters covering a movie about a slain correspondent leaves a sour taste in the mouth.

If Jolie—and her partner Pitt who produced the movie—learn anything from "A Mighty Heart," I would hope it would be to value the work that the media do, to understand the limitations they face and the challenges they work under. As actors, they are in a unique position to understand that the only way stars and the media can live together is to eternally seek a balance, a balance between their need for publicity and the media's curiosity; between their desire to protect their image and the media's obligation to tell the truth.

In other words, there's nothing wrong with mutual respect, and I'm sure if a star or celebrity treats the media honestly, acknowledging their need for information as well as insight, then the media would in turn respond with empathy and responsibility. Of course, there will always be misbehavior not just among stars but also among the media. And for every arrogant diva, there's a journalist fueled by malice. But the truth is that we need each other, and only by acknowledging our mutual limitations can we live together come scandals, scams or separations.

Europe's two futures

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer

EUROPE TODAY PRESENTS A CONTRADICTORY picture. It is a land of peace, democracy, and the rule of law. It is also a land of prosperity: its economy is competitive, its currency strong, inflation is low, and its standards of living are among the highest in the world. Europeans benefit from very high levels of social protection, inexpensive, high-quality education, strict environmental standards, and excellent infrastructure. In addition, Europe has unmatched cultural diversity and great natural beauty. It all sounds like a utopian dream.

With its 500 million people and the world's largest single market, Europe, even if not seen by the world as a real union, is still an economic giant. But politically it is a dwarf—and shrinking. Ours is a century of large states, and the further rise of China, India, the United States, and Japan will soon make the largest European powers look puny. Even today the three largest EU members barely manage to offset Europe's loss of political weight, much less to stem the tide. Without a strong EU, this development will only intensify.

The world outside Europe is changing rapidly, and it won't wait for Europeans mired in an agonizing process of self-discovery. The alternatives are clear: keep up or be left behind.

In America, despite the current obsession with Iraq, a strategic view is taking hold that defines the 21st century mainly in terms of the triad of China, India, and the US. Japan's role as an American ally is viewed as a given. The relationship with Russia is placed somewhere between partnership and renewed rivalry, but it is not really seen as a strategic challenge. And, in strategic terms, the rest is silence—which applies also to Europe.

The bottom line for America is that while Europe no longer creates problems, for the foreseeable future, Europe, due to its lack of unity, will not be willing or able to contribute to solving the world's problems. Europe's involvement in Nato's efforts to stabilize Afghanistan only emphasizes this ambiguity.

On the one hand, Europe's role in Afghanistan is appreciated by the US, but on the other, it also exposes the Europeans' weakness and the Alliance's limited capabilities. While the US political elite has not written off Nato, expectations about its crisis-solving competence are fast being scaled down. This view of Europe as a negligible political entity is fully shared in Beijing, Moscow and New Delhi.

This is the starting point at which a new generation of leaders is taking over the reins in the EU's three largest member states. Gerhard Schröder, Jacques Chirac and Tony Blair are history. In Germany, the government of Angela Merkel has been in power for one and a half years. Nicolas Sarkozy has just assumed the French presidency. Gordon Brown will soon take over as prime minister in the UK.

Within just a few weeks, this trio will be called on to make a vital decision on the future of the EU. That decision concerns the Constitutional Treaty and its prospects. What the new foundational document is called in the end is a minor point; what is essential for Europe's future is that constitutional reform is revived and gives Europe a strong foundation. The question, then, is whether the new leaders succeed in a new effort to adopt the vital institutional reforms that the enlarged Union requires.

The best way to proceed is to focus on the essentials. Part III of the blocked Constitutional Treaty is merely a compendium of the existing EU treaties, which—because these treaties will remain in force regardless of whether they are part of the new document—can be decoupled from the rest.

Part II of the stalled document, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, can be postponed. To be sure, this would be painful because, as the EU bureaucracies gain more authority, the EU's democratic deficit will widen without clearly defined fundamental rights. If Part II is postponed, the European Court will have to define these fundamental rights for the time being. This is only a second-best solution, but it is better than nothing.

Part I of the treaty, however, is indispensable, as is the new voting procedure, with its "double majority" rule balancing the role of the states and the population. To reopen this part of the debate, and thus to allow a dilution of its substance, would be a historic failure and a major setback for Europe's future. If this is the price of going ahead with the treaty, it is better to do nothing at all and bide one's time.

The stakes are thus very high for Europe in the coming weeks. If the substance of the Constitutional Treaty is saved, Europe will increasingly develop into a global player. Only then will the transatlantic alliance also have a future. To be sure, this process will take time, and there will be other setbacks. But the fundamental direction will be correct, and there will be real cause for optimism. If, on the other hand, this attempt, too, should fail, or end in a lazy, useless compromise, Europe's decline will accelerate and transatlantic relations will become increasingly turbulent.

It is now up to Merkel, Sarkozy and Brown to prove, despite all the differences that may exist between them, that they understand the challenges that globalization poses for Europe: the EU member states will be able to defend their interests in the world of the twenty-first century only to the extent that the EU itself is strong.

Project Syndicate

Joschka Fischer was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. A leader in the Green Party for nearly 20 years, he is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Why fight?

YOUNG BLOOD

Giane Cortazar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FEEL DESPAIR BECAUSE OF what's happening. The killings and disappearances have always provoked a certain sense of indignation, disbelief and anger in me, but this time, it's personal.

Last night, I got a taste of what it feels like to have hope dashed. Last night, I felt for the very first time in my life that the threat to the freedom I often take for granted hangs precariously by a thread, and that thread is being held by people like Jonas Joseph Burgos. Last night, abstract concepts like freedom, injustice, political killings, disappearances and principle suddenly took on a stark, clear form. These things are no longer intangible ideas that I discuss over a cup of coffee with friends. These ideas are no longer just part of an academic classroom discussion, or your own personal attempt to take part in the country's struggles. Last night, these things came to life. And I don't think I will ever look at them the same way again.

I can't reconcile the fact that good people have to suffer and die fighting for what's right. I have a hard time accepting that loved ones get left behind because there are people who are hell-bent on stopping the good that is being fought for. I cannot accept that a little girl will have to grow up without her father—her father who stood up for what's right, her father who gave his life to a cause greater than his own self-preservation.

Why do we fight if, in the middle of the battle, we just end up being shot down? Why do we continue the struggle if we will suffer for it? What is the point in fighting for truth, justice, and peace when for every wrong that you try to make right, the injustice and oppression only seem to double, triple, or even quadruple? What is the sense in dying for what you believe is right when the perpetrators of corruption and injustice outnumber the good men and women who stick to their principles?

Why do we fight? Is there even anything left to fight for?

Last night, I cried for the death that this country is slowly but surely experiencing. Freedom, democracy and everything else the Filipino people have fought for are systematically being killed. Democracy in this country is a farce. Freedom is becoming a commodity that is being sold to the highest bidder.

Last night, I realized it is time to stop intellectualizing. Last night, I realized that ideas are useless if you don't translate them into concrete action.

Last night was a turning point. I don't think I can go back. I don't think I want to go back if the only thing I will be returning to is idealistic complacency.

Giane Cortazar, 22, is a writer/editor for Living News and Good Education, a publication for public high school students. She is a cousin of Jonas Burgos.

No middle name

Apple Geradela

I'VE ALWAYS FELT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE. DIFFERENT from classmates, schoolmates, people my age, even my closest friends. For a long time, I couldn't quite put my finger on what it was. But during the first days of school when students are still fresh and eager to starting the new school year and every graduation exercise that I went through, I could feel the blush creeping all over my face. The reason was: I don't have a middle name.

It may not be such a big deal to some people, but for me it was a stigma that I had to bear every time I was asked to say my complete name out loud by the teacher. You see, my birth certificate doesn't indicate any middle name because on the space where my father's name should have been written is the word "Unknown."

The first time I saw it, I thought it was rather obscene. For how could any mother not tell who the father of her daughter is? Unless she has been raped, which was certainly not true in my case.

I always felt a chill go down my spine whenever the teacher made the roll call to confirm school records and called out the students' last, first and middle names. When she would got to mine, she would ask, "What's your middle name, Apple?" This would be followed by a moment of awkward silence and then I would mumble stupidly, "I don't have one." She would give out a soft "oh" and go back to her list. But not before that one very embarrassing instance when all my classmate would sneak glances at me and whisper to each other, "Love child" or "Illegitimate." And to add another insult, sometimes someone would snicker, "And what kind of a name is Apple anyway?"

I've wondered about this myself. There have been times when I would just suddenly shut up in the midst of hanging out with my friends especially when they talked about their families. All of them had a father or a mother or both who cared for them and with whom they could talk to whenever school or being a teenager was too much to bear. I had neither one nor the other, but I have a grandmother who brought me up since birth. My mother was somewhere else with a new husband and my father was, well, as my grandmother puts it, "drowned and dead in the bottom of a bowl of soup."

One time when I was already in college, my grandmother sensed my unease. While she was gently prodding me to tell her what it was that was bothering me a lot, I blurted it all out to her.

Sighing, she told me that it didn't matter at all. "Why," she asked, "does it bother your friends too? Have they stopped being your friends after they knew you have no middle name?"

That set me thinking a lot. I observed my friends quietly during recess the next day, and I noticed that they were happy just being themselves, all of them brimming with ideas on what we should do after school or during the weekend. I closed my eyes and felt the warmth of their presence and finally I realized that my grandmother was right.

Apple Geradela, 27, works in a publishing company.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

'Miracle' in Pampanga set model for whole country

INDEED, THE VICTORY OF FR. ED PANLILIO in Pampanga's gubernatorial race was a miracle. Pitted against the power of guns, the intimidation of goons and the glitter of gold, Among Ed still emerged the winner. His victory was a handiwork of God. It was a resounding triumph of "Praise the Lord" against the *jueteng* lord and the quarrying lord.

Governor-elect Among Panlilio introduced a new era of politics not only in Pampanga but in the whole country as well. Fed up with dirty politics in their province, the Kapampangans not only welcomed but embraced new politics because they wanted change. Such feat has become the object of awe and reverence and served as a model of sovereign will that all Filipinos who desire change can emulate.

The victory of Father Panlilio is an oasis in veritable desert of Philippine politics. It is a dark cloud's silver lining and a light at the end of the tunnel. It is a sign of the Kapampangan's political maturity and enlightenment.

I hope and pray that Among Ed, who will be addressed as the "honorable governor of Pampanga" from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010, will live up to the high expectation of his provincemates and the Filipino people and fulfill his promise of good governance and transparency.

Mabuhay si Among Ed.

—VIC J. COLUMNA,
vicjcolumna@yahoo.com

Negros case a test of Comelec resolve

I'VE READ THE LETTER OF PAUL RODERICK Ysmael about the need to investigate election law violators. (INQUIRER, 6/11/07) Right now, there is a case pending before the Comelec—SPA NO. 07- 465, titled "Camposano vs Ferrer"—which was filed before the 2007 elections. The case is about illegal campaign posters in the fourth district of Negros Occidental.

Chairman Benjamin Abalos himself said in public that he would disqualify candidates found to violate the law on illegal posters and he, in fact, issued a circular last April 28, 2007, giving a deadline to offenders to clear the trees and surroundings of unlawful streamers, billboards and posters.

I think that the people are waiting for the outcome of this case because it puts to test the sincerity of the Comelec in implementing this particular law. Commissioner Resureccion Borra even said this was a "test case" that would serve as an example to future candidates on the need to properly follow the Comelec rules on postering.

It is, therefore, important for Chairman Abalos to render a prompt decision on the case before June 30, 2007 so that the people will have reason to believe that the Comelec is an institution that has not lost its sense of fairness and justice.

—MICHAEL ALEGRE,
mike_campos2006@yahoo.com.ph

GMA to blame for chaos in 2007 elections

AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, AT THE END of the day, the Arroyo administration must be held responsible for the violence and fraud that marred the elections. These and the use of government funds and institutions for partisan interests and for the administration's political survival, etc. did not do justice to the sanctity of the ballot.

Doubtless, the government failed to hold orderly and peaceful elections; thus it failed to empower many Filipinos into exercising freely their right to vote. This failure reflects the present administration's lack of respect for the will of the sovereign people it is sworn to serve and protect.

Given Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's record though, this is not very surprising. In the 2004 elections, GMA and her camp were accused of cheating the people of their right to freely choose their leaders. Its refusal to clear the doubts has emboldened political hackers to again try to subvert the 2007 elections. This administration remains brazen and shameless in advancing its partisan interests even if that would mean undermining the remaining democratic space given by the elections to the people. The people responsible for that fraud are still in power. The questions about the 2004 electoral fraud and about the legitimacy of GMA's presidency persist to this day.

I was in Mindanao during the elections. Just the physical arrangement of the polling precincts already ensured a chaotic and disorderly election. In the People's Park of Marawi City, where the canvassing was held, the canvassers had only candles by which to read the votes. They were in a very open space, on grassy grounds. They had no protection whatsoever from the rain. They had to glue their respective precinct's tally sheets on a fence, the other side of which was used in the same manner by canvassers from another precinct. In the dim surroundings, heavily armed soldiers could be seen roaming around—purportedly to ensure peace and order, not to intimidate. The shouting of names of the candidates in one precinct could be heard in the other precincts. The place was practically a marketplace on busy hours, or if you will, a crowded cemetery on All Saints' Day. Nothing there was conducive to the orderly conduct of elections. Instead, everything lent itself to chaos, exhaustion and mistakes in the counting of votes. Whether the mistakes committed were honest or deliberate is altogether a different matter.

That situation was allowed to fall into such decline showed the "true resolve" of the Arroyo administration when it comes to protecting the sanctity of the ballot and upholding the sovereign will.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kasimbayan,
kasimbayan@yahoo.com.ph

REPEAL
REPEAL ANTI-TERRORISM BAYAN
REPEAL ANTI-TERRORISM KARAPATAN BAYAN

MEMBERS of a leftist group rally against the anti-terror bill early this year.

Militants brace for deployment of soldiers in schools

EVEN DURING THE DARKEST DAYS of martial law, university campuses and schools were a bastion of free speech, militancy and critical thought. Schools were a relatively safe shelter from government/military harassment and oppression.

It is thus alarming to hear that as the Human Security Act (HAS; read, anti-terrorism law) is set for implementation this coming July, the military and the police will be deploying their troops inside schools.

Without doubt, their target will be members of progressive organizations, which they have labeled as "communist fronts." Even before the HSA, the military has been brazen in harassing members of our organization. Some of them, like Cris Hugo, Rei Mon Guran and Farley Alcantara, ended up among victims of extrajudicial killings.

The HSA only provides a "legal" basis for military surveillance, harassment and oppression of civilians and non-combatants. The law itself is a clear manifestation that the country has been placed under an undeclared martial law in an attempt by the administration to silence its critics. Civil liberties, like freedom of assembly and speech, may soon be "legally" curtailed.

Aside from "legalizing" the curtailment of civil liberties and the deployment of military troops in non-conflict areas, the law will also limit academic discourse and discourage students from pursuing intellectual growth. One can only imagine the anxiety and fear that students would feel when they see uniformed men patrolling their campuses with heavy firearms.

Universities hold academic freedom as a core value because they promote critical thought. How can there be critical thought when armed men are around?

—VENCER CRISOSTOMO,
national chair,
League of Filipino Students,
10-C Speaker Perez St.,
Quezon City

Hold your fire, Gabriela counseled on Ruffa-Yilmaz row

BEFORE GABRIELA RUSHES TO SIDE with Ruffa Gutierrez on her allegations that her Turkish husband abused and tortured her, the militant women's group should first conduct a thorough investigation into the matter and listen to Yilmaz Bektas.

Gutierrez isn't exactly a paragon of probity and integrity. Recall that she was involved in the rigging of the Manila Film Festival in the '90s.

What's more, she bears no traces of her alleged physical torture. If her husband cut her hair, how come her locks are long and healthy? If he electrocuted her, she barely appears traumatized. If he hit her, she should show even the faintest bruises to support her accusations.

After all the hype, Gutierrez's charmed life seems to be over and she has transformed her prince into a hateful toad.

—ROBIN PIGUE, Sycamore Tower,
Dansalan Gardens, Mandaluyong City

Inefficient eCard Plus handling

I AM AN OLD-AGE GSIS PENSIONER who retired from the government after 40 years of dedicated and unsullied public service.

My problem with the GSIS is my most often delayed monthly pension. This pension is my only means of surviving the day-to-day economic crises in my personal life. I have gone several times to GSIS-Roxas Boulevard to inquire about my pension. The GSIS personnel there say it is GSIS-Manila which handles and releases my pension.

My May 2007 pension has not been credited to the eCard Plus that has been issued by the GSIS. In view of this, may I suggest to GSIS-Manila that my succeeding pensions be released by check as done before. It's up to date. My April 2007 pension was released by GSIS-Manila on April 21 through the eCard Plus.

—BIENVENIDO P. CORTES,
51 Punta Tabuc, Roxas City

Masa's involvement needed to solve problems

THAT EXCELLENT COLUMN TITLED "Build him a shrine" (INQUIRER 6/13/07) by our kababayan Conrado de Quiros was, however, just like "pearls thrown before swine" in this God-forsaken nation.

It was so because it was written in a "borrowed tongue"—the English language—and not in our own, thus limiting its impact on our masa, which is the numerically larger, but largely ignored portion of our population.

And in this country, for as long as the *masa* is not involved in any serious effort to find lasting solutions to our many problems as a nation, neither peace nor prosperity is possible in our country.

—R.A. IBARBIA,
ramonibarbia@yahoo.com

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When human greed serves society

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER TITLED: "Poverty: a question of resource management and distribution." (INQUIRER, 6/1/07) The letter makes some naive and simplistic assumptions. (1) Human greed in society can be conquered. (2) There is no way to channel that greed into productive uses. (3) Empowering the poor can only be had through government aid.

Eloquent but very wrong.

First, how can he say there is an "unjust" distribution of wealth in society without explaining it? Though our society is far from being a free market, does he think Henry Sy and John Gokongwei are "unjustly" wealthy? They probably started with less than what the writer has now. They never forced anyone to give up their money or property. They only acquired wealth by giving others something of value in return, in a voluntary transaction. They may have done it out of greed, but the beauty of a free market is that if you are greedy, you can only get rich by giving other people something of value in return. And by giving other people something of value, you promote their welfare and that of society as a whole.

Now what is it that the writer proposes? Get rid of greed? That's impossible and unrealistic. All people—rich or poor, powerful or powerless—will respond to incentives (i.e., greed).

The wealthy landowner acquired his land by the sweat of his brow and saved his money instead of blowing it on a fiesta. You take his land and give it to poor farmers, some of whom blow their harvest earnings on a feast, thus succumbing to loan sharks. (This is not to say that there are no landowners that are unjustly wealthy, like those who got to own lands through violence and extortion—e.g., some old Spanish families).

"It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages. Nobody but a beggar chooses to depend chiefly upon the benevolence of his fellow citizens." (Adam Smith, "The Wealth of Nations")

—MARK BELO,
markbelo@gmail.com

Barangay elections: an explosive issue

IT IS DISHEARTENING TO HEAR THIS EARLY a reelected lawmaker from the South making this proposal to postpone anew the barangay elections, already on a rescheduled date (Oct. 26, 2007), for flimsy reasons: first, the oft-repeated "lack of funds" for the holding of such elections; second, the rainy weather.

As if on cue, the president of the barangay federation of the Philippines, in a radio interview, interposed no objection to the postponement and fully agreed with the proposal, pointing out without any scientific basis that only a small percentage of the more than 40,000 barangay chairmen in the Philippines may not be performing fairly well. Both proposal and claim are a gross misreading of the people's pulse. If only the congressman and the barangay chief would conduct an honest-to-goodness survey of the people's sentiments, they would find out that there is a popular clamor for barangay elections.

Consider the following: Since May 1994 up to the present—a period of more than 13 long years—only three barangay elections have been held. This means, barangay officials during this period served an average of four years for every term. By law, their term of office is supposed to be three years only. In view of these facts, how could another extension be justified? A resetting of the barangay elections belittles the significance of barangays. Another postponement would be a gross insult to barangay folk. Its proponents should do some rethinking about their suggestion, or they risk an explosion of public anger.

—GERARDO CLAUDIO,
gerwayclaudio@yahoo.com

Canada to give ₱40M more in aid for peace efforts

By Cynthia D. Balana

CANADA HAS PLEDGED TO GIVE CDN$1 million or P40 million more for the rehabilitation of Mindanao once a peace agreement is signed between the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland said Canada's assistance was in response to the Philippines' call for continued support to peace and development efforts in Mindanao while the peace talks are ongoing.

"Mindanao is a major focus for Canadian International Development Agency (Cida)'s program in the Philippines. Our emphasis on governance, support to small business and conflict-affected areas reflect the importance we attach to these integral components of the government's strategy for peace and development in Mindanao," Sutherland said.

In March last year, Canada made an initial contribution of P30 million during the launch of the Mindanao Trust Fund in Cotabato City. Other donors include Australia, New Zealand, the European Union and Sweden.

2-phase fund

The two-phase fund is administered by the World Bank, with the first phase focusing on capacity-building and implementation of reconstruction and development projects in conflict-affected areas while the peace process is in progress.

The second phase is intended to support full-scale reconstruction programs once a peace agreement has been signed.

The fund is currently providing resources for the capacity-building of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF, tasked with the responsibility of determining, leading and managing relief, reconstruction and development projects in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Sutherland said the additional assistance from Canada would provide for more conflict areas to receive assistance and for new elements in the first phase, such as mainstreaming gender in peace-building work, community-level emergency response, advocacy campaigns, and enhanced coordination with other projects in the conflict areas.

The Philippine government and the MILF have yet to finalize a peace agreement.

AFP has no extrajudicial ...

From page A1

sor, Gen. Generoso Senga, in which it was revealed that the military condoned extrajudicial killings as the two generals had claimed in an interview with the INQUIRER over the weekend.

"General Esperon said he will verify whether this is true," Bacarro said of the incident. He said Esperon also wanted to find out if the two generals who spoke to the INQUIRER were still in active service.

Senga retired in July 2006 after serving as AFP chief of staff for a year.

800 militants killed

Human rights groups said that more than 800 militants had been killed allegedly by military operatives since Ms Arroyo became President in 2001 (the INQUIRER count is 297).

The two generals on Sunday spoke with the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity about their plan to assist Trillanes, one of the leaders of the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny, in investigating political killings and the unresolved "Hello Garci" controversy once he begins work as a senator.

"Recently, the AFP had been the object of so many disinformation and we are looking at this concern that this might be just disinformation so as to create divisiveness within the organization," Bacarro said.

Not policy

"But we would like to highlight that it is not the policy of the AFP to conduct such activities," he said, referring to extrajudicial killings.

Esperon has been implicated in the wiretaps of a telephone conversation purportedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The opposition said the wiretaps showed Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 presidential election—a charge she has denied.

Bacarro said the AFP chief of staff "will be more than willing to answer questions at the right forum."

"His conscience is clear, that he can face anybody and prove that he did not do it," Bacarro said, quoting Esperon.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, AFP Metro Manila commander, dismissed the reported claims by the two generals as part of a "psywar" by "those out to destabilize the government."

Nothing to fear

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said Malacañang had nothing to fear in a Trillanes probe.

"If he really wants to investigate, let there be an investigation but let it be an honest-to-goodness investigation, not one out of vindictiveness, so that the truth will come out," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

Gonzales, a member of the Cabinet cluster on national security, said the government did not have a policy of killing militants and personalities identified with the Left. "Definitely not. In my national security plan, my emphasis is legal offensive," he said.

"We are not denying that there is zero involvement (of the military), but if we have this investigation we will see what is really going on," he added.

The human rights community, however, welcomed the generals' plan to help Trillanes in his probe.

Brothers in AFP

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of Karapatan, said the generals' revelation convinced the human rights group that "we still have brothers within the military who are not swayed by power and money."

"We advise the generals to be careful because their security is definitely at risk," said Willy Marbella, deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. "They will be challenging the most brutal state apparatus and it will do anything to stop the truth from coming out."

Special units

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, KMP chair, said the disclosure confirmed the presence of "special units within the Armed Forces tasked with killing political activists."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the planned Senate inquiry should focus on "unmasking the policy makers who are responsible for the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of unarmed activists."

Reader's Digest

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Notice is hereby given that the final draw has been held at the Regional Reader's Digest Office in Singapore last June 12, 2007. Winners will be notified by registered mail. In case of query, please contact A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc. 723 Sgt. Bumatay Street, Plainview, Mandaluyong City.
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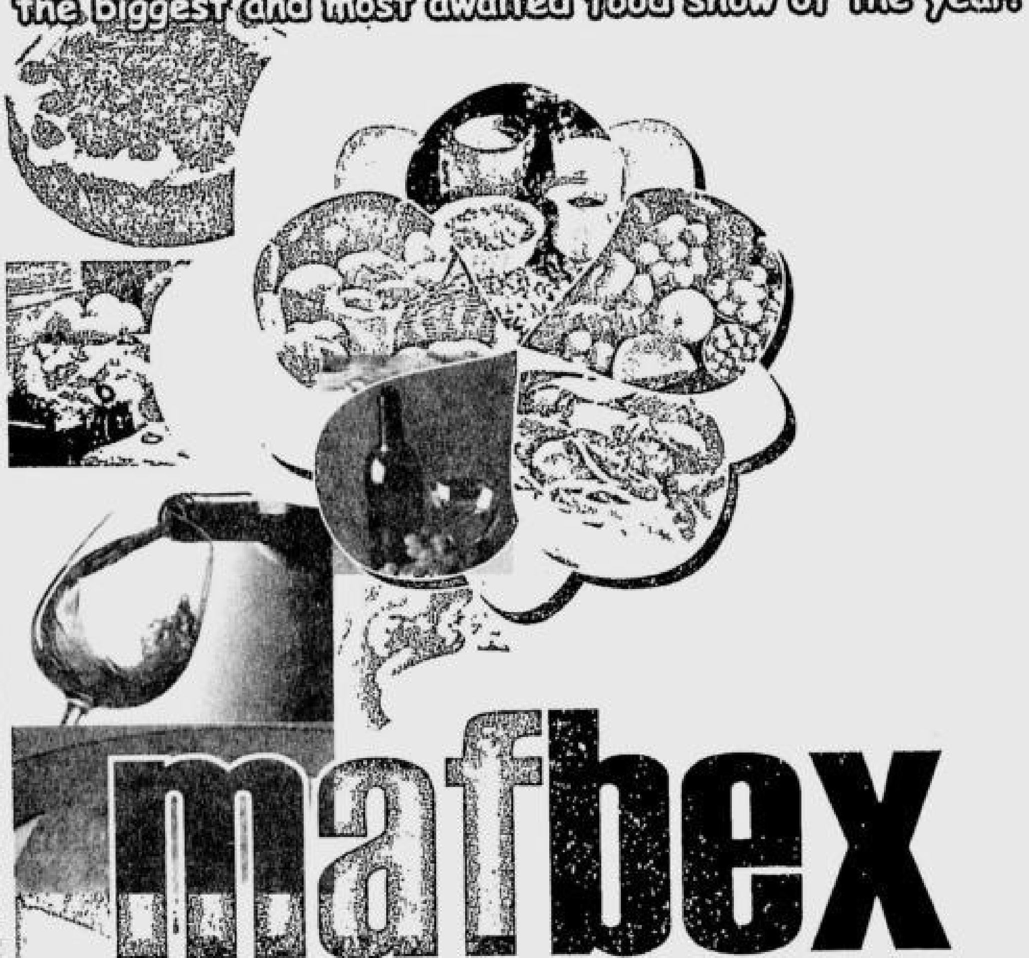

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NPAs attack cell site to impose 'taxes'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SUSPECTed communist rebels bombed a cell site of Globe Telecoms in Tubungan town in Iloilo near midnight on Sunday, causing major damage to the facility.

At least 10 heavily armed men who introduced themselves as New People's Army (NPA) rebels disarmed the cell site's two security guards of their .38 cal. pistols around 11:30 p.m. at Barangay Ambarihon in Tubungan town, about 41 km south of Iloilo City.

Lt. Col. Nestor Porlucas, commander of the Army's 79th Infantry Battalion, said in a telephone interview that the rebels tied the guards' hands and ordered them to leave the facility.

Barangay Captain Alejandro de la Villa Sr. said, in a radio interview, that the rebels gave a flashlight to the security guards before they were sent off.

The rebels detonated three improvised bombs twenty minutes after the guards left. The explosion destroyed the site's generator set and control panel but did not damage the tower.

Porlucas said the explosion was strong enough to damage the concrete fence surrounding the 40x20-meter facility. Government troops recovered detonating wires reaching 200 meters long.

The cell site is around five kilometers from the municipal hall, which was also attacked and briefly held by NPA rebels in 2005.

Porlucas alleged that the rebels belonged to the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA's Southern Front Committee led by Lahum Camriosa, alias Ka Bibong, which operates in the towns of Leon, Tubungan, Mia-gao and Igbaras. They were believed to have fled toward the hinterland villages of Guimbal and Igbaras towns.

He said the attack could be part of the rebels' actions against the company for refusing to pay their "revolutionary taxes."

The rebels, in previous statements, have justified the attacks against firms saying companies that operate within their alleged areas should pay "taxes."

Jones Campos, Globe assistant vice president for public relations, said they have refused to give in to rebel demands to pay these fees. "We only pay taxes to the government," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The blasts damaged equipment costing "hundreds of thousands of pesos," according to Campos. But he said what is important is that their security guards are safe.

A new cell site costs between P5-P10 million depending on the location of the facility. Campos said the damage would be lesser because the tower was not damaged.

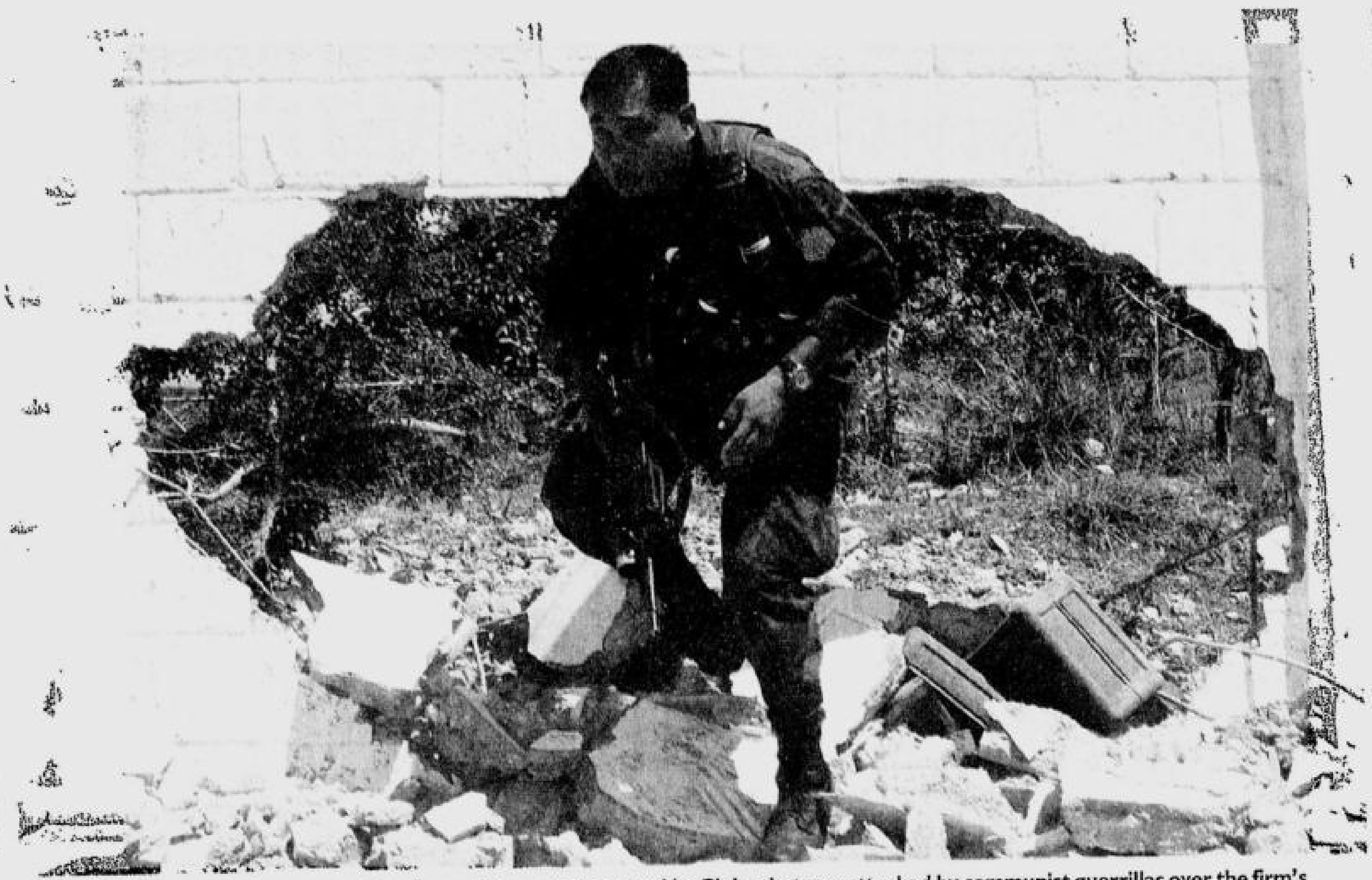
"It's unfortunate that this happened. But this is part of the risks in our operations and we hope the police will get the perpetrators," said Campos.

Campos said company engineers are rushing to inspect the extent of the damage and restore its operations.

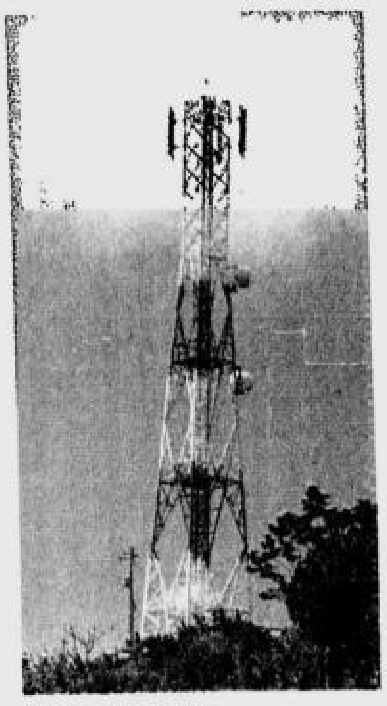
The blast could disrupt the signal of Globe subscribers from two to three days within a five-kilometer radius.

The NPA rebels have attacked several cell sites, mostly owned by Globe, in the past few years, including around five this year.

Gerardo Ablaza, CEO of Globe, was quoted in April last year as saying there were more than 50 attacks on the firm's facilities by communist guerrillas since 2001.



A POLICEMAN checks the extent of the damage in a cell site owned by Globe that was attacked by communist guerrillas over the firm's refusal to pay taxes to the rebels.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS



THE GLOBE cell tower withstood the rebel attack.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Youth won't give up hope in education

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—EIGHTEEN-YEAR-old Ricky Bumilac dropped out of school when vices and friends took his interest away from learning.

But Bumilac and 122 other youths who had to stop schooling for a variety of reasons here are gearing to return to their classrooms to hopefully get their degrees after they passed the Department of Education's Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test this year.

The A&E is part of the DepEd's Alternative Learning System (ALS) program, which grants a passer a certificate that would make him or her eligible to enroll in college or be employed in government.

"I was a delinquent. I was into vices like drinking and smoking with my *barkada* (friends). But I realized later on that if I would stay that way, I would end up with nothing," Bumilac told the INQUIRER.

Arthur Tiongan, A&E supervisor in the Cordillera, said more than 10,000 students passed the test in the country this year.

The test is given to out of school youths and adults.

DepEd records showed that the families of these people came from poor communities.

More interest

Tiongan said the increasing number of examinees and passers indicated that more out of school youths are showing interest in pursuing their education.

"In the past four years that we have been doing the tests in Baguio, we noticed that this year has the highest number of takers. We were also happy to note that there were also families who have been encouraging and sending their maids to DepEd to take the test," Tiongan said.

Labio Calingayan, a teacher and volunteer of the ALS program, said among the passers who helped popularize A&E is boxer Manny Pacquiao.

"The government wants to reach out these youths and inspire them to pursue their education. To encourage them more, we, their teachers, accompany them to schools where they plan to enroll in," said Calingayan.

DepEd records showed that 10,887 of 35,404 people passed the secondary level test while 1,508 of 4,150 passed the elementary level test this year.

Tiongan said the only factor that stops A&E passers from enrolling is the increase in tuition and other fees.

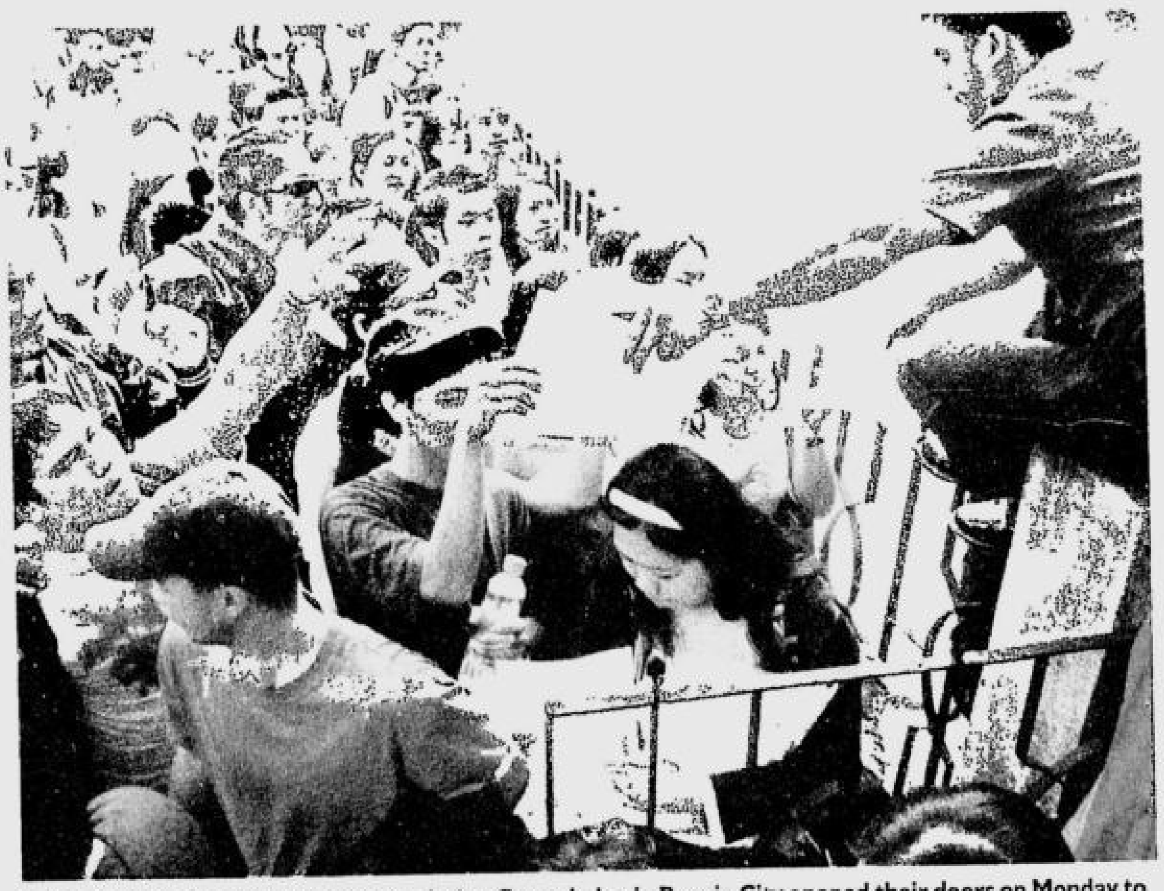
Costs

In Baguio City, colleges and universities have increased their tuition by an average of 5 to 10 percent.

But Bumilac considered passing the test as an initial victory in getting his engineering degree.

"My only problem is that we do not have the money to enroll [so I can pursue] college, but this will not stop me from attaining my dreams of becoming an engineer. I'm taking it one step at a time, for now, I will settle with [taking] some [technical and] vocational courses," he said.

"We just hope that scholarships will be opened for these passers. They deserve the chance and they are prepared," Calingayan said.



EMPLOYEES of the Professional Regulation Commission in Baguio City opened their doors on Monday to find over 5,000 applicants for the nursing and teaching board exams this year, and were almost overwhelmed by the number. They are proof of education's, or a college degree's, value in finding jobs.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Glut pushes cabbage prices down

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE farm gate, or trading prices, of cabbage have plunged to a record low at the vegetable trading post here this month, reviving discussions on the implementation of crop programming among the province's farmers.

Local agriculture officials said the farmers themselves are to be blamed for the dip in prices because of overproduction and poor crop scheduling.

The trading cost of cabbage has been on a roller coaster ride since classes opened last week, from P1 to P4 a kg. It went up to P5 to P6 per kg last week but went down as well during the weekend.

On Monday, prices went up to P5 a kg for the first class scorpio cabbages.

But farmers said the price ranges are far from "break even" because of increased production and freight costs.

Basilio Copas, a farmer trader, said the break even price for the vegetable would be from P8 to P10 a kg.

"But now, it is very low at the average of P3 a kg," he said.

"Many farmers are going home sad. The prices they got were not even enough to pay their loans," he said.

In June last year, cabbage made a killing while carrots lost, said Dominador Dongla, chief market inspector here, said.

Today, he said, carrots could fetch P30 a kg, together with potatoes at P15 to P18 a kg. These prices are considered profitable.

Dongla said the culprit is overproduction. "Many farmers planted cabbage to be harvested in time for the opening of classes," he said.

Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist, said the situation called for the need to implement crop programming where a comprehensive planting and harvesting system would be put in place.

"Farms will cultivate different vegetables to be harvested at different strategic periods," she said.

"The concept of crop programming has always been there. But the problems are the lack of political will among local officials to implement it and the lack of commitment on the part of the farmers themselves," she said.

Records of the agricultural marketing assistance division of the Department of Agriculture in the Cordillera showed that among highland vegetables, cabbage enjoyed the highest demand among consumers. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Trade pacts cited reasons for Cebu factory closure

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE NORKIS TRADing Co. will cease operations of its production and assembly facility for Yamaha motorcycles next month.

Norkis, in a company statement, cited the government's zero tariff policy that resulted from free trade agreements as the reason for its decision.

The company noted that the Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) would allow Japanese manufacturers to bring their finished products into the country without any tariff coverage.

The shutdown would affect 364 permanent employees who have been offered early retirement packages, Norkis said.

Norkis media consultant Willie Capulong said the company expects to reach an agreement with the affected employees before the closure next month.

The company is also looking at other ways to provide livelihood to the employees affected by the facility shutdown, Capulong added.

He also denied some reports that politics could be the reason for the company's decision to shut down its assembly operation.

Luigi Quisumbing, grandson of Norkis founder Norberto Quisumbing Jr., ran for a provincial board seat in the May 14 elections but lost to incumbent Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

Capulong maintained that the company made the decision purely based on business factors.

Capulong said that 70 percent of Norkis retail outlets would continue to sell Yamaha motorcycles exclusively but the Norkis group has plans to carry other brands in the rest of the outlets, now carrying the Norkis group's four-wheel products.

The company also arrived at its decision to shut down its Yamaha manufacturing facility as its technical collaboration agreement with Yamaha Motors Co. Ltd. of Japan expires next month.

Norkis had filed with the Department of Labor and Employment the company's decision to stop the operations of its Yamaha production facility last week. The company cited the expiration of its agreement with Yamaha Motors as the reason for the impending closure.

On the other hand, the Norkis Group will embark on an expansion program of its retail financing businesses.

Norkis said it would put up 25 new retail financing units in the next two years, 15 in Luzon and 10 in Visayas and Mindanao.

Norkis Trading, as the flagship company of the Norkis Group of Companies, would provide the funds for the retail financing units.

The company said its investment portfolio in the retail financing business has reached almost P7 billion, servicing over 150,000 accounts nationwide.

In Visayas and Mindanao, the Norkis firms engaged in retail financing include Norkis Distributor Inc., Cebu Filipino Marketing Resources Corp., Northern Mindanao Finance Services Group Inc. and Southern Mindanao Finance Services Group Inc. while Norkis Automotive Resources Corp. and Auto Solutions Inc. are based in Luzon.

The Norkis Group also plans to provide remittance services for Filipino migrant workers through its nationwide network of 200 branches.

The retail financing business had kept the Norkis Group afloat during the difficult years that followed the Asian financial crisis in 1997, Norkis recalled.

It has contributed over 50 percent of the group's profit in the last few years, prompting the Quisumbing family to review its corporate goals.

Founded in 1962 as the sole assembler and distributor of Yamaha motorcycles, Norkis Trading has been recognized as among the biggest source of revenue by the Bureau of Customs.

Bus firm resumes trips after bombings

By Orlando Dinoy
Inquirer Mindanao

BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR—Weena Bus Co. yesterday said it decided to resume operations, two days after a powerful explosion killed eight bus passengers and wounded 16 others here.

A day after the bomb exploded at Weena Bus 1104 while leaving the terminal, the company decided to suspend its services to passengers traveling between Davao and Cotabato cities.

Abelardo Gamilla, Weena operations manager based in Davao City, said Malacañang officials had phoned the bus owners to ask them to reconsider their decision.

Gamilla did not identify the officials but added that President Macapagal-Arroyo was worried about the impact of the company's decision to suspend operations on the economy of areas it had been servicing.

The Davao-Cotabato route is one of the most important links that connect southern, central and northern Mindanao.

"The riding public must understand that we stopped operations for the last two days because we want government authorities to give attention to our problem," said Gamilla.

He reiterated that extortion syndicates were behind the attacks.

FAMILIES, relatives and friends of victims of an explosion that ripped through a bus owned by Weena offered flowers and prayers at the explosion site on Sunday, June 17. A cross stands at the site where at least eight people were killed.

ORLANDO DINOY/INQUIRER MINDANAO

"We don't have problems with the damaged buses because they can easily get restored but we are concerned about the safety of the civilians. They don't have anything to do with this and yet they suffer mostly," Gamilla said.

Since 2002, 17 Weena buses have already been attacked by the extortion syndicates but little has been done to prevent their recurrence, he said.

Gamilla said the management acceded to the Palace appeal, especially after police and the military had given assurances that they would double security for both their bus units and passengers.

The INQUIRER learned that among the measures adopted was the posting of policemen and soldiers in bus depots along the route, who will check on every passenger boarding.

Another is for Weena drivers to refrain from picking up passengers along the way, except in designated areas.

He said marshals would also be deployed in the company's buses.

Three days after Friday's bomb explosion, police investigators said they were still determining the type of explosive used.

Senior Insp. Sherwin Butil, Bansalan police chief, said the police crime laboratory was still finding out what materials were used to make the bomb.

This could help determine if terrorists were behind the attack, he said.

At least six US bomb experts were seen helping their Filipino counterparts in recovering evidence.

The militant group Bayan Muna said the presence of US soldiers at the scene of the investigation was already a form of US intervention into the affairs of the country.

But Chief Supt. Andres Caro, Southern Mindanao police chief, said the Americans were only there to observe how the investigation was being conducted.

"Sending bomb experts, Huey helicopters and military equipment are forms of US meddling that only increased the risk of our people becoming unwilling targets of their enemies," Jeppie Ramada, Bayan Muna coordinator for Southern Mindanao, said. *With reports from Eldie Aguirre, Jeffrey Tupas and Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

CPLA head's arrest leads to restudy of '87 pact

BAGUIO CITY—AN ARMED militia has begun studying its 1987 ceasefire agreement with Malacañang after its leader was arrested last week in Quezon City for trafficking marijuana.

Undercover police officers arrested outgoing Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, also chair of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), a Cordillera rebel movement formed by slain priest Conrado Balweg.

Marcelina Bahatan, president of the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBAd), the CPLA's political department, said she wanted to know the repercussions of Molina's detention on ongoing peace talks with government.

Immunity

She said the CPLA was uncertain whether the group was also covered by immunities normally granted to the peace negotiating panels of rebel groups, such as the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Molina, who ran and lost in the Abra gubernatorial race, was caught handing over a paper bag of two marijuana bricks to an undercover police officer on June 13.

The transaction took place inside Molina's vehicle, which also contained unlicensed firearms, a police report said.

Police also arrested Molina's aide, Ricardo Verzosa, and a suspected accomplice, Richie Watanabe.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) has been notified about Molina's arrest.

Bahatan, a government tax investigator, has been detailed to Opapp at the request of Secretary Jesus Dureza, the presidential adviser on the peace process.

She said Molina had filed a leave of absence when he ran for governor.

Arsenio Humiding is acting CPLA chair, "so technically, the man they arrested has nothing to do with the organization," Bahatan said.

"We sympathize [with Molina] and we want to know what happened because we don't know if everything that came out in the news [about his arrest] is true. But the CPLA is convening an emergency session to discuss how [his arrest] will hurt the talks," she said.

Factions

The CPLA had split into factions, years before Balweg's 1999 assassination.

Molina led a faction against Balweg, but he agreed to reunite with Balweg's widow, Corazon Cortel, to resume talks with the government.

Balweg and then President Corazon Aquino agreed to a "cessation of hostilities" in 1987 following the ouster of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos during the 1986 Edsa revolt.

The ceasefire led to the creation of a Cordillera Administrative Region at the prodding of Balweg and the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA).

Balweg had lobbied for the conversion of the Cordillera into an autonomous region, but he failed to draw enough votes during two subsequent plebiscites.

President Macapagal-Arroyo integrated CPLA members allied with Molina's faction into the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2002, as a gesture meant to cement the ceasefire. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DOH probes claim Negros hospital mismanaged

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE DEPARTment of Health is investigating accusations of irregularities at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital, the biggest government hospital in Negros Occidental.

Health Assistant Secretary David Lozada, who heads the DOH Integrity Development Committee (IDC), said he had instructed the Regional IDC to gather documents related to the accusations being hurled against certain officials of the CLMMRH.

Dr. Benito Bionat, chief of clinics and chair of the hospital's financial planning and management monitoring committee, and Brian Baylon, chief administrative officer, had earlier questioned the alleged irregular purchase of oxygen tanks.

Bionat said the hospital purchased more oxygen tanks a month than other larger-sized government hospitals in other parts of the country.

Baylon has charged Dr. Domingo Vega, chief of the CLMMRH, of alleged incompetence and of having favored suppliers.

Vega, on the other hand, said he had not committed anything wrong. He denied any wrongdoing and accused Baylon and Bionat of prosecuting the hospital by publicity.

But Baylon said he decided to bring to media's attention what was happening at the hospital so the irregularities would stop.

He said he had repeatedly brought his concerns to the attention of Vega and the Commission on Audit but these had not been acted on.

Baylon claimed that from March to December last year, there had been no bidding on the hospital purchases of oxygen and he believed this caused the hospital to lose P4.2 million.

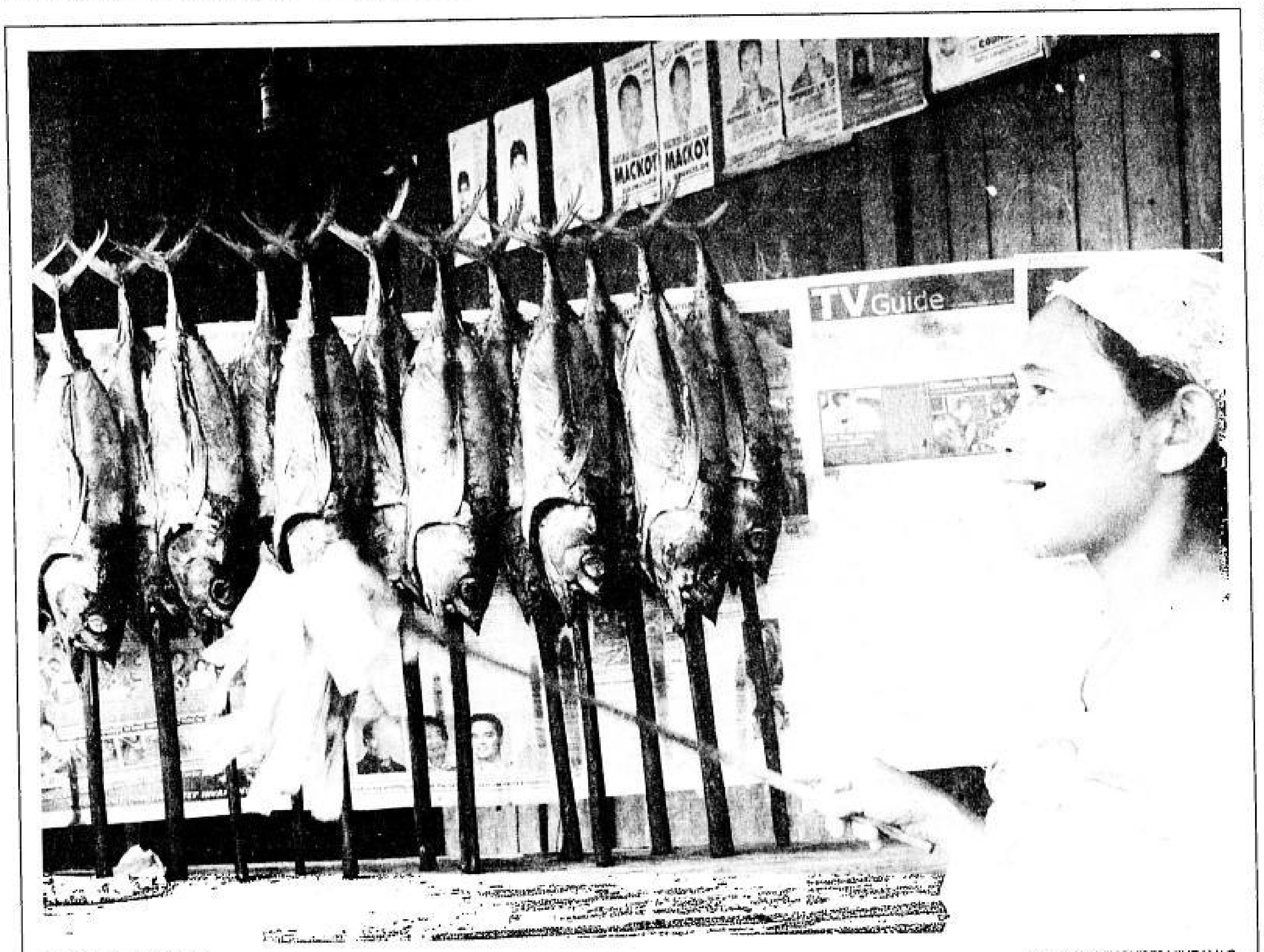
Vega denied that there was no bidding and no purchase order for the oxygen.

He said Baylon also questioned three years ago the alleged excessive purchase of oxygen but this had been properly addressed.

Vega explained that the hospital needed more oxygen than other hospitals because more people had asthma in the province due to a pollen-laced air brought about by numerous sugar plantations.

The oxygen purchases, he said "is validated by the utilization."

On allegations that employees are overworked because the facility is undermanned, Vega said that on June 12, he wrote to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III asking for the lifting of a moratorium on the filling of vacant positions at the hospital. The moratorium has been in effect for two years now.



RICHEL UMEL/INQUIRER MINDANAO

IT'S IN LANAO

A Maranao woman tends to her small stall that sells smoked fish in Baloi, Lanao del Norte. The province was in the news recently for alleged election fraud, but residents just go about their daily lives.

Cop chief, subordinate sacked for jailbreak

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The chief of police of Luisiana, Laguna, and one of his men have been relieved from their positions following the escape of four inmates, including a suspect in a kidnapping case, from their cell at the Luisiana municipal jail on Sunday, police said.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., provincial police director, said he ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Wenceslao Anore after investigation showed no signs that the cell was "forcefully opened."

Rojas also relieved PO1 Madonna Riña, who was duty guard when the prisoners fled.

"According to results of our initial probe, there were no signs of forceful opening of the detention cell. That's why I have ordered a deep investigation of the incident to punish those responsible in the escape of the inmates," Rojas said in a mobile conversation with the INQUIRER.

During a pursuit operation, members of the Laguna Provincial Police Office recaptured one of the inmates.

Rojas identified him as Robert Añonuevo, 28, who was facing charges of slight physical injuries.

Añonuevo was arrested from a house in Barangay Panglan in Majayjay, Laguna, more than seven hours after his escape, he said.

Still at large are murder suspect Enrique Hombera, 54, of Barangay San Jose, Luisiana; robbery suspect Joven Lobiano, 19, of Aurora province; and Guillermo Huad, 28, of Sto. Tomas, Luisiana, who was charged with kidnapping.

Rojas said Riña was on a routine check of the jail facility at around 3:30 a.m. on Sunday when she noticed that its steel gate was opened.

Riña discovered that four inmates were already gone from their cell, he said.

Retraining of fish cage operators seen

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—IN A BID TO avoid another massive fish kill in Pangasinan, local fishery officials and operators will undergo a refresher course on sustainable operations of fish pens and cages, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Nestor Domenden, BFAR director for Ilocos region, said a dialogue would be held first this week with officials and operators in the province to find out why technologies and regulations were not being implemented or followed.

"If the reason for the fish kill is the lack of training among operators, then we will concentrate on retraining them. But if it's the lack of implementation of technologies and regulations by the officials, then that will be our focus," he said.

On Wednesday, the BFAR will also meet fish cage operators in Sual town where about 300 fish cages are located.

"Pangasinan is a major supplier of *bangus* in the country, supplying 40 percent of *bangus* marketed daily in Metro Manila. And most of Pangasinan's production are from western Pangasinan towns like Bolinao, Anda and Sual," Domenden said.

"If the water quality is becoming poor, operators should activate the life support systems like paddle wheels and aerators. Some should harvest their stock. This is the reason many of them were able to harvest before the water quality got worse," he said.

Quoting the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, he said the total losses from the fish kill could be only P32 million, not P100 million as reported.

The operators are also trying to recover fast from the losses, Westly Rosario, BFAR research center chief here, said.

While BFAR personnel were taking samples of water in the affected areas, some operators are already restocking their cages.

"And to think that in Culang village, the dissolved oxygen level was 0.9 ppm (parts per million) which is way below the normal 4 ppm. That was at 10 a.m. when there is photosynthesis activity. So you can imagine what the situation is at night time (when there is no photosynthesis)," he said.

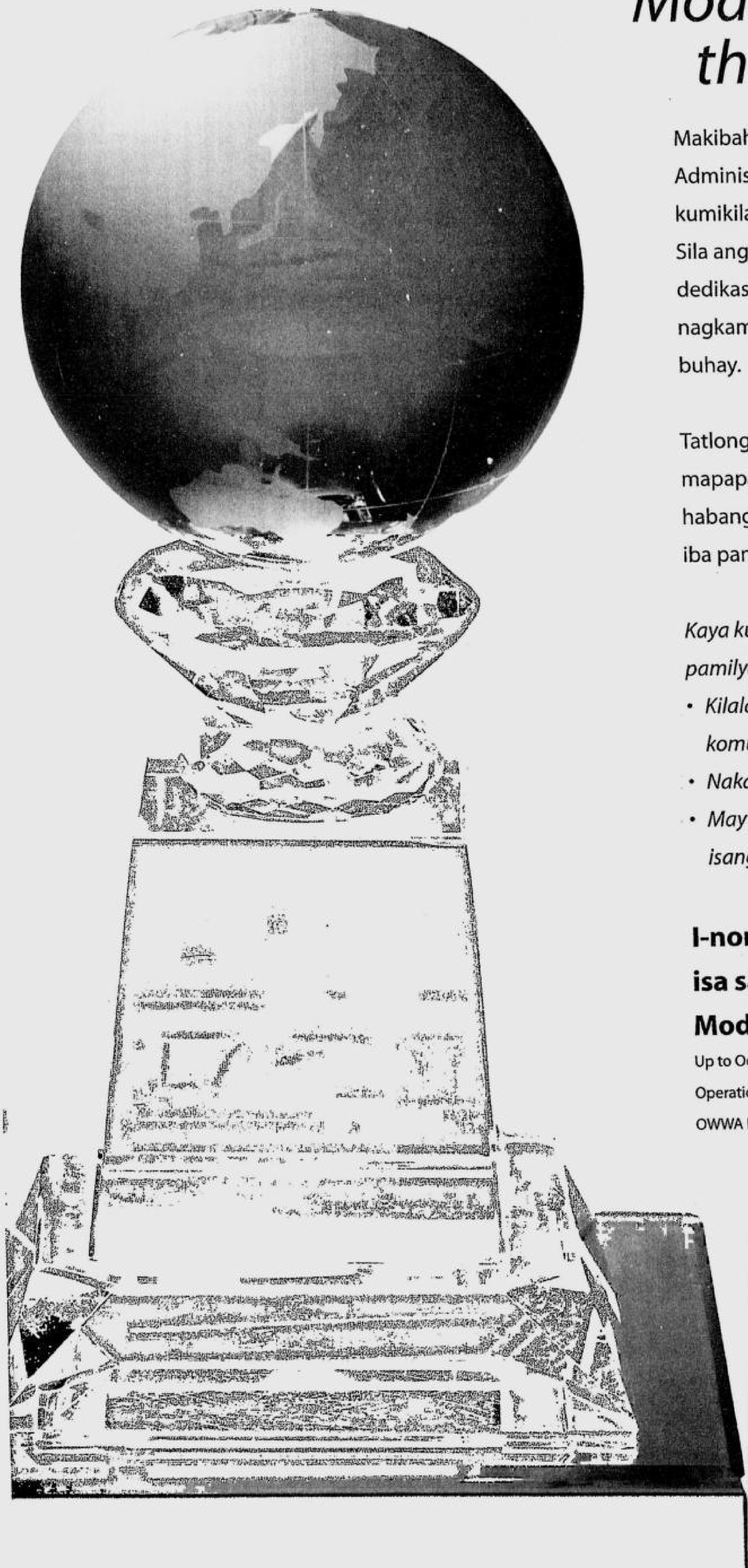
Rosario also said that in Siapar village where the dissolved oxygen level was 2 ppm, some caretakers continued feeding the stocks while others were harvesting *bangus*.

A large wooden boat, locally known as *bituya*, was seen transporting fingerlings to a fish cage, he added.

"I think the situation is normalizing," Rosario said. "Trucks are there and ice is available."

He noted that the worse hit was the narrowest area of the Kakiputan Channel, where water changes occur during changes of tide.

"Posible bang parangalan ang mga tagumpay sa buhay ng pamilyang OFW?"



Posible po sa Model OFW Family of the Year Awards!

Makibahagi sa Globe at sa Overseas Workers Welfare Administration sa isang taunang parangal na kumikilala sa mga natatanging pamilyang OFW. Sila ang mga pamilyang may angking sipag, dedikasyon at lakas ng loob, mga pamilyang nagkamit ng tagumpay sa kabila ng mga hamon ng buhay.

Tatlong karapatdapat na pamilya ang mapaparangalan at bibigyang gantimpala ng Globe habang 14 na pamilya naman ang magwawagi ng iba pang mga regalo.

Kaya kung ikaw ay may kakilalang katangi-tanging pamilyang OFW na:

- *Kilala bilang isang magandang halimbawa sa komunidad,*
- *Nakapagpaaral o nagpapaaral ng kamag-anak,*
- *May maayos na pamumuhay at nakapagpundar ng isang negosyo*

I-nominate na sila at baka sila na ang isa sa tatlong pamilyang hihiranging Model OFW Family of the Year.

Up to October 28, 2007 lang ang nominasyon kaya tawag na sa OWWA Operations Center sa (02)5511560 at (02)8336992 o makipag-ugnayan sa OWWA Regional Welfare Offices para sa karagdagang impormasyon.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

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Sariwain ang mga katangi-tanging kwento ng mga kababayan nating matagumpay na OFW sa "Mga Kuwento ng OFWs" isang librong punong-puno ng mga real-life OFW stories na siguradong magbibigay ng inspirasyon. Kasama rin dito ang mga kwento ng tatlong pamilyang kinilala bilang huwarang pamilya noong nakaraang taon.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

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Victim in Jalosjos rape case to get damage claim

After 10 years, girl awarded ₱800,000 check

By DJ Yap and Jerome Aning

TEN YEARS AFTER FORMER ZAMBOANGA del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos was convicted of raping an 11-year-old girl, the victim can finally claim the court-awarded damages of P800,000.

But she may have to wait a week or so, as the staff of a Makati court try to determine the proper protocol in the release of the manager's check Jalosjos issued two months ago to indemnify the victim. The INQUIRER learned that as early as April 27, Jalosjos' lawyer, Cipriano Robielos III, manifested his client's intention to pay the amount for civil indemnity and moral damages set by the court upon his conviction in 1997.

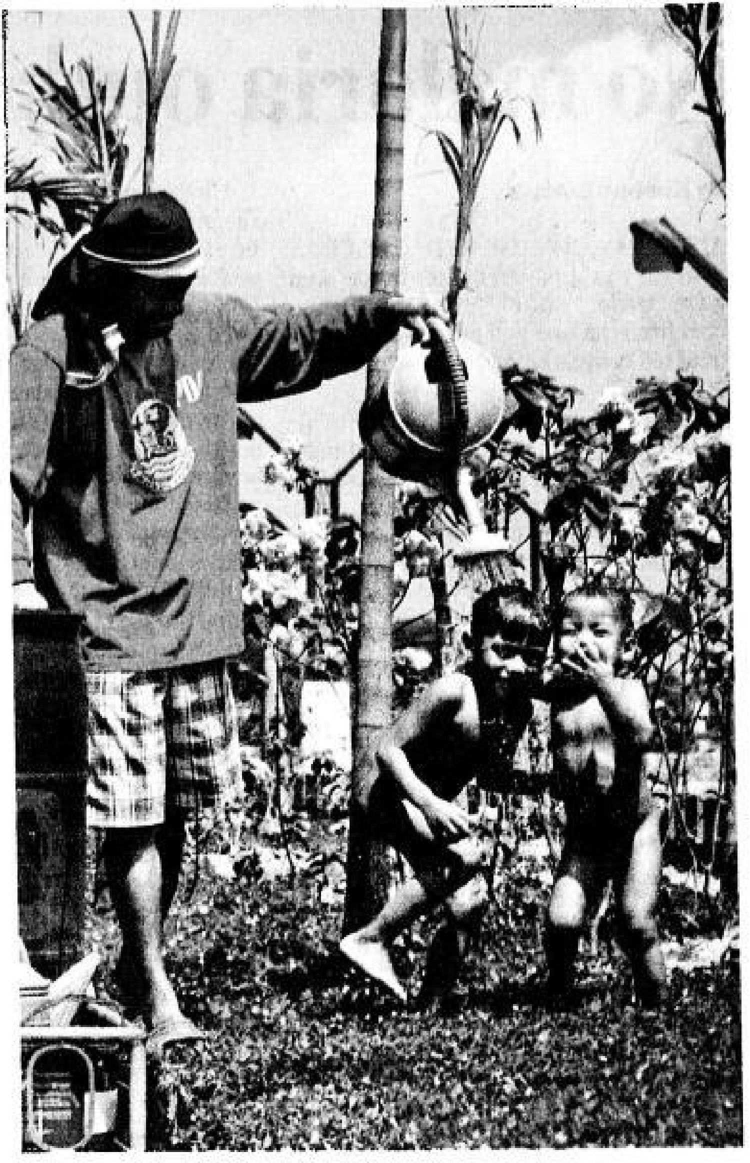
Jalosjos also issued a Landbank check in the victim's name after the Supreme Court upheld his conviction, said Emil Ibañez, the clerk of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 62. But Ibañez told the INQUIRER yesterday that the check "should have been issued in the name of the office of the Clerk of Court, not the victim herself."

He added that the court would clarify the matter with Jalosjos and arrange for the issuance of another check likely to be made available within the week to the victim who is reportedly out of the country.

The payment of damages coincides with Malacañang's announcement last week that it would commute the two life terms of Jalosjos to a jail term of 16 years, three months and three days.

Yesterday, Protestant church leaders added their voice to the growing protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision.

"We also dare ask: What is special about a convicted child rapist such as Jalosjos who gets favors from Malacañang?" National Council for Churches in the Philippines secretary Sharon Rose Joy Duremdes said.



DOUBLE PURPOSE
A park employee in Intramuros, Manila saves time by watering plants and giving two boys a bath at the same time. REM ZAMORA

Water service for Parañaque residents soon

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE DECADES-LONG DRY SPELL IN SOME areas of Parañaque City will soon end.

Before the end of the year, around 50,000 residents in Barangay BF, San Antonio and San Isidro will finally have water flowing from their faucets.

The Maynilad Water Services Inc. will begin laying two major pipe systems next month, a project which is expected to be completed within five months, according to city administrator Noli Aldip.

Additional 150 mm diameter pipes will be installed on President's Avenue, from Aguirre Avenue in BF Homes Parañaque to Dr. A. Santos Ave (formerly Sucat Road).

"An 800 mm diameter pipeline will be installed on Dr. A. Santos Ave., from Kabihasnan Road up to Evacom in Barangay San Dionisio," added Aldip, chair of the city's water crisis committee which was created to solve the water shortage problem.

Maynilad currently draws water from the Villamor Air Base station in Pasay City. Upon completion, the 800 mm pipeline will draw water from the Pasay City pumping station.

However, Hernan Juatas, convenor of the Homeowners Welfare Advocacy Group, a group composed of residents in BF Homes Parañaque, said that they would not directly benefit from the project.

"It would have no effect because the areas where the pipes would be laid are too far off from us. It would be of help in the sense that it would boost water pressure in the area," Juatas said.

BF homeowners have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo for help in resolving the water crisis in the subdivision by authorizing Maynilad to directly supply water to their households.

One on the lip for ex-TV host

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FORMER TV HOST ETHEL BOOBA FIGURED in a fight with two other women early yesterday morning inside a bar in Quezon City.

Insp. Corazon Sandoval of the Quezon City Police Station 10 said that Booba (Ethyl Gabison in real life), 29, of South Triangle, Quezon City, was hit on the lip with a shoe owned by one of two women, Rica Mae Labra and KC Roa, who got into an argument with her.

Before that, the TV host and her date, Javier Daily, were inside the Decades Bar on Roces Avenue, Barangay Laging Handa at 5 a.m. when she allegedly heard Roa remark in Filipino, "There she is with another man.".

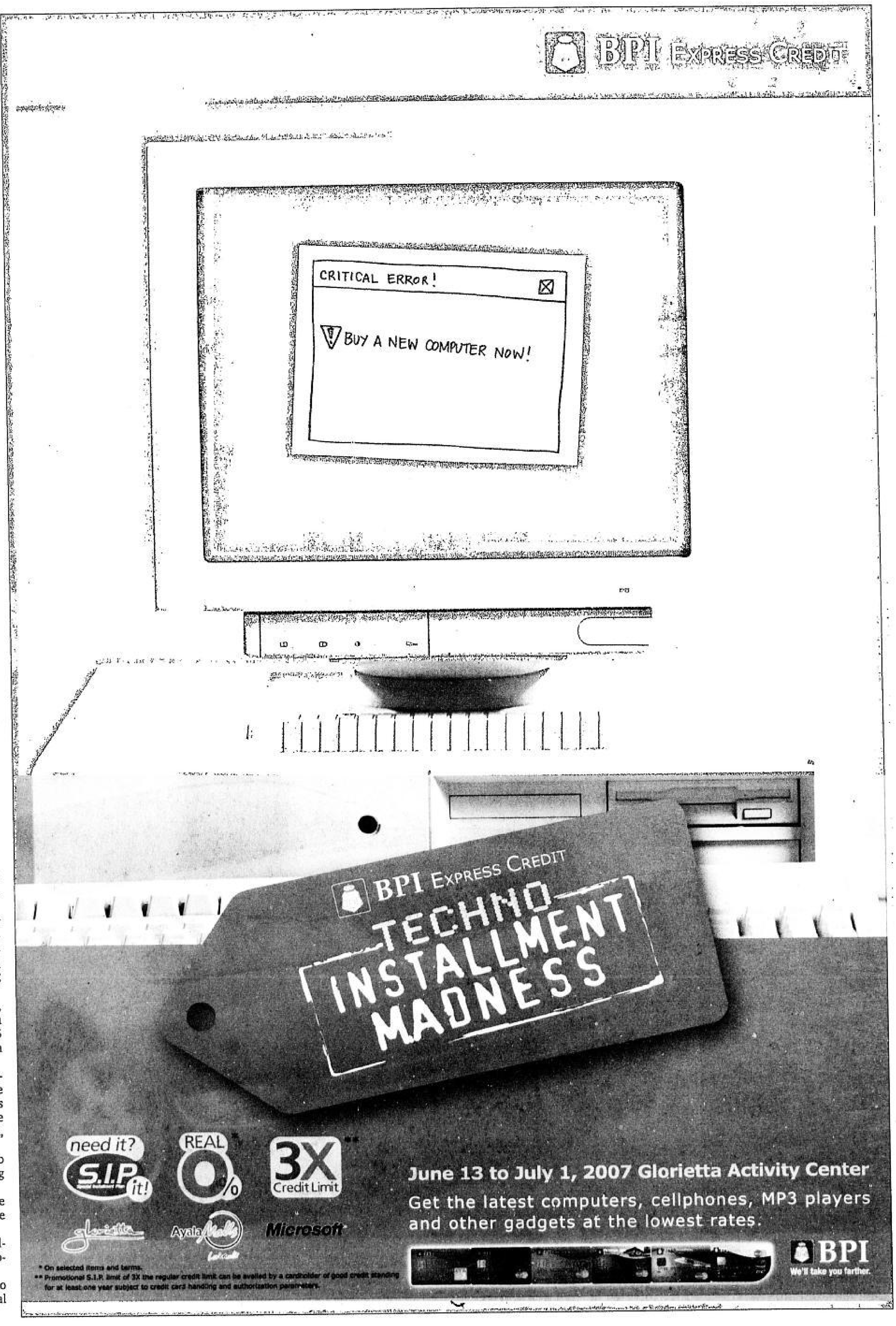
This caught Booba's ire and led to an argument between her and the two women. She tried to hit one of them with her shoe but was stopped by a bar watchman. At this point, one of the two women hurled her shoe at Booba, hitting her in the lip and leaving a cut.

The two women fled on board a taxi cab with Booba and her companions pursuing them in a car.

The two women, however, took over the cab and drove back to the bar, followed by the other group.

At the police station, the two parties decided to drop the matter after exchanging apologies.

"There was no real damage. I have too many projects and I can't be bothered by legal suits," Booba said.



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No malaria outbreak in Antipolo, says health official

By Kristine L. Alave

ANTIPOLO CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS yesterday said malaria cases in the area were "under control," even though figures from the first half of the year almost doubled compared to the same period in 2006.

Dr. Iluminado Victoria, Rizal provincial health officer, said that from January to June this year, 340 cases of malaria have been reported in the province, with most of the patients coming from the mountain villages of San Juan and San Jose.

So far, there have been no casualties, he added.

Dr. Grace Alcantara, Antipolo City health chief, said there were 184 cases recorded in the first half of 2006.

Fumigation operations in San Jose and San Juan have been scheduled to reduce the number of malaria cases, Alcantara added. They are also closely monitoring Sitio Binayoyo in San Juan, where new cases have been reported.

Victoria, however, said that while the increase in the number of malaria patients was a bit alarming, the situation cannot be called an "outbreak" at this point.

He said malaria is "almost endemic" to the province, which means that it cannot be completely eradicated and that towns will experience a rise in cases at some point.

"If you ask me, it's a bit alarming. But the situation is under control," Victoria said in a phone interview.

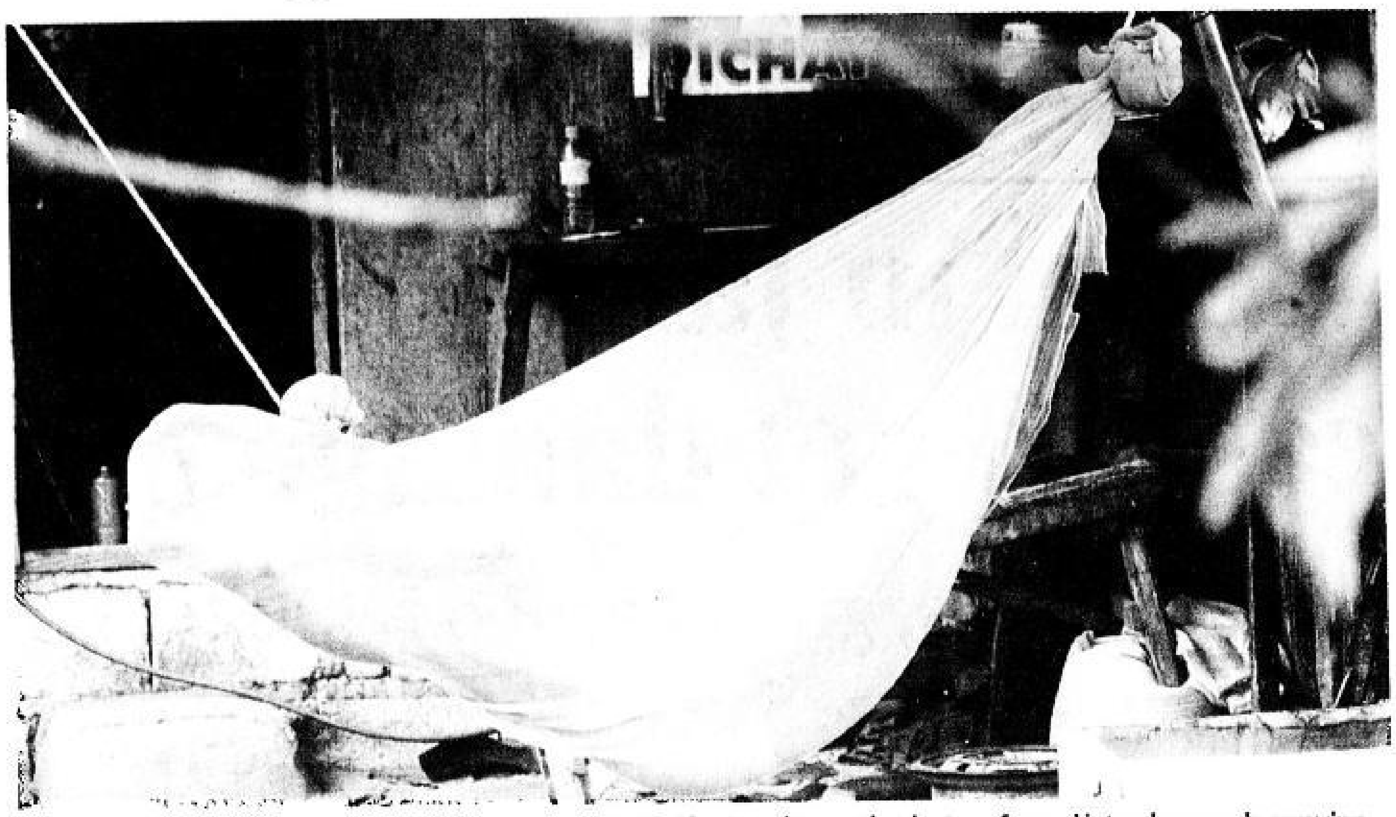
Alcantara echoed his statement, noting that while the number of cases may have risen, health officials and facilities immediately treated patients to contain the spread of the disease.

She added that the city has weekly fumigation operations in closely-watched areas. Mosquito nets have also been distributed to residents, Alcantara said.

Victoria said the province is on alert for malaria and dengue, two diseases caused by mosquitoes that are active during the rainy season.

Rizal residents, he added, were told to inspect their houses for mosquito breeding grounds so these could be eliminated immediately upon detection.

Victoria said they expect more cases of malaria and dengue in the next few months, and advised residents to keep their surroundings clean to reduce the chances of contracting the diseases.



A RESIDENT of Antipolo in Rizal province takes a nap inside his mosquito net that he transformed into a hammock, ensuring his protection from dengue or malaria-bearing mosquitos. A rise in malaria cases has been reported in the area in the last few months.

JOAN BONDOC

First 'human flag' on display at Luneta Park today

BIGKIS president Gauvencio Serrano leads his members in paying tribute to Jose Rizal.

EDWIN BACASMAS

By Tina G. Santos

MEMBERS OF A SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATION from all over the country will gather at 6 a.m. today in front of the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta in Manila to form a "human flag" as tribute to the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, on his 146th birth anniversary.

The first-of-a-kind patriotic display of the flag is made up of 500 members of Bigkis ng Pangkalahatang Espirituwal at Materyal na Rizalista ng Inang Pilpinas Unibersal Pederasyon Inc., a federation of various Rizalista groups nationwide.

"This is a symbol that the spirit of nationalism is alive," said Bigkis president Gauvencio Serrano.

"To be united as a people, we have to have a starting point of oneness," he said. "*Saan ba tayo pwede magsama-sama?* The historical Rizal, the radical Rizal and the mystical Rizal. When it comes to Rizal's teachings, we are one."

Participants will wear robes and caps according to the colors of the flag they represent, Serrano explained.

The male members will be in red (Mindanao) and the females in blue (Visayas); the white (Luzon) is reserved for "*Sagrada Pamilya*" (Holy Family) or parents and their children; and the sun and stars, officials, leaders and incorporators of Bigkis.

Descendants of Rizal are also expected to attend the wreath-laying rites in Luneta.

Outgoing Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will lead the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal monument at 7 a.m., with National Historical Institute executive director Ludivico Badoy and members of the military.

In a related activity, environment advocates will honor the national hero for his love of nature from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Orchidarium, also at the Rizal Park grounds (*See related story below*).

With Allison W. Lopez

Jose Rizal honored today as environmentalist

By Amadîs Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ON HIS 146TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY TODAY, national hero Dr. Jose Rizal will be honored as an environmentalist by a multisectoral coalition, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Green Army, Mother Earth Philippines/Artists for the Environment, and the Archdiocese of Manila.

The ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. at the Orchidarium at the Rizal Park in Manila. This is a sequel to "The Trees for Life" program launched on World Environment Day, June 5.

In addition to being novelist, poet, linguist, sculptor, physician, reformer, among other things, Rizal, was an environmentalist at a time when concern for Mother Earth was not yet worldwide or even fashionable.

While in Heidelberg, Germany, Rizal sought out nature and took long walks through the forest. One of his famous poems ("A las Flores de Heidelberg") was a tribute to the flowers of that city.

He also praised the local landscape to his European friends, describing it as "certainly richer and all its landscape variegated with brilliant colors ..."

While in exile in Dapitan, Rizal planted trees and designed a water system for the community. "It was sustainable extraction of water," says Liesl Lim, executive director of the Green Army.

"This is the first birthday celebration of Rizal as an environmentalist," says Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth Philippines. The theme is "Jose Rizal the Environmentalist and the Youth of the Land."

Some 2,700 seedlings will be distributed to school children. Alcantara expresses the hope that "they will plant, love and nurture the trees up to their full height, in line with what Rizal did in Dapitan on Day 1 of his exile."

Under the "green" program, 20 million seedlings will be distributed all over the country until November.

Parents who want their children to receive the seedlings may get in touch with Lim (Tel. no. 3965029).

Nicole Quicho, daughter of environmental lawyer Jun Quicho, will interpret a classic dance titled "For Love of Mother Earth."

Guests include novelist F. Sionil José, Rizal descendant Gemma Cruz Araneta, members of the diplomatic corps of the countries Rizal visited and students of the Philippine High School for the Arts and the Philippine Science High School.

Spare no one, GMA tells antismuggling boss

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION and Detection (CIDG) has been ordered off limits from the piers as the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force (PASG) starts its work soon. The order came from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The PASG is headed by Antonio Villar, former Pangasinan town mayor, who once worked as agent of the defunct Secret Service unit of the Bureau of Customs. Reports say some members of the CIDG are operating at the piers purportedly against smuggling, but customs sources say they're protecting the big smugglers.

The President's order to Villar is not to spare anyone in the antismuggling drive launched to raise customs duties and taxes. Tariff collection has gone down because of rampant smuggling. Among the biggest smugglers is a person who reportedly uses the name of Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, the President's son. Mikey, however, has disowned the alleged smuggler, saying the man just happens to take care of his race horses.

According to my sources in the PASG, the President has ordered the arrest of a guy who reportedly namedrops a very influential person in smuggling activities. "Have him arrested if he uses our name," GMA reportedly told Villar. The success or failure of the PASG rests on how far the President will support Villar.

* * *

I can believe the report that some military generals are tacitly supporting a campaign to kill persons they perceive to be enemies of the state. One general, according to the report, even openly discussed the assassination of militant activists in Luzon during a conference with his men.

I will go a step further: Some people in the police and military may even be thinking of killing journalists.

A friend told me a police regional director in Luzon warned him to stay away from me at the height of my misunderstanding with the President's husband.

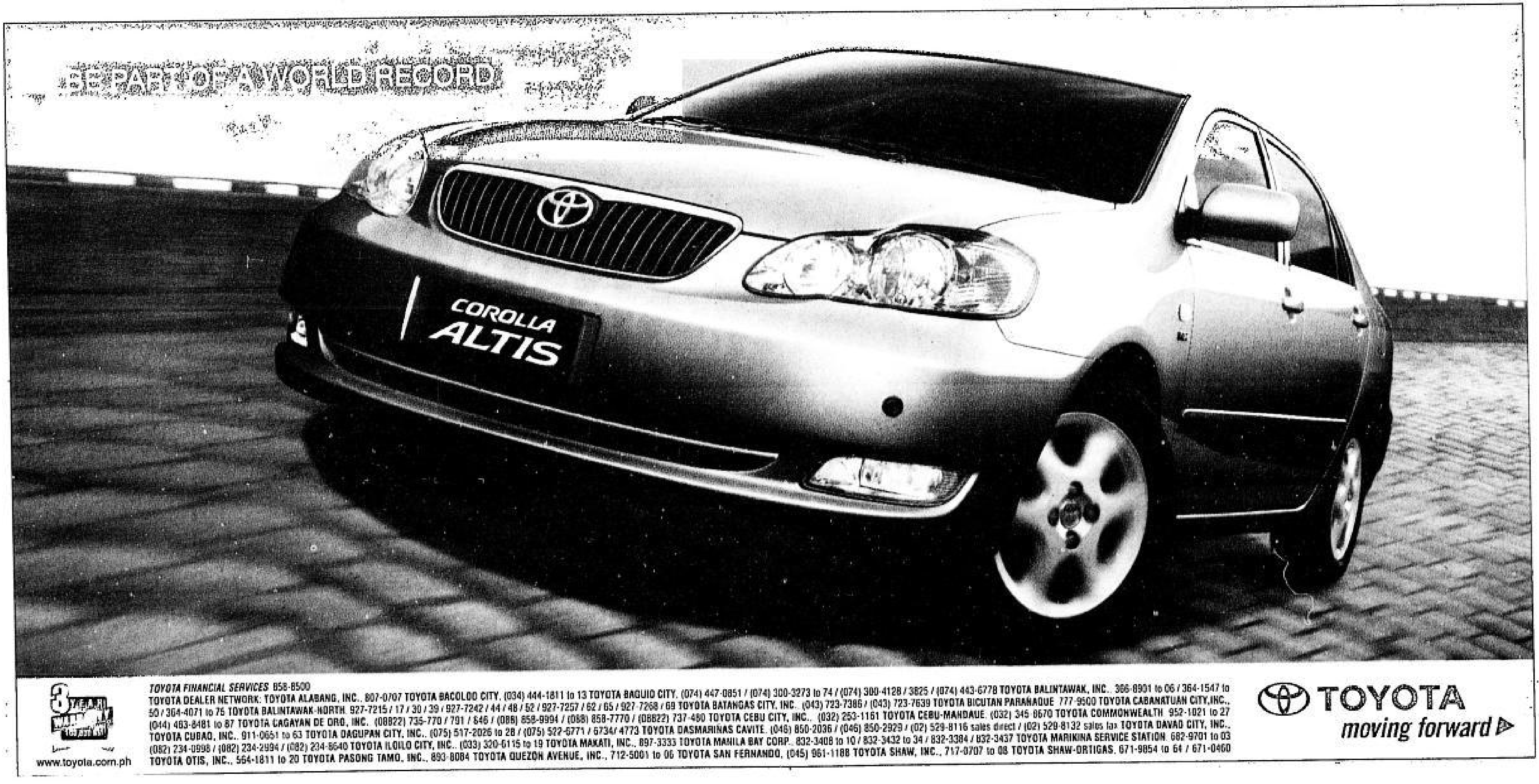
The police regional director supposedly told my friend I would be ambushed by some troops within the police and military. No wonder the Philippine National Police refused to issue me a permit to carry a gun at that time.

It's a good thing the crisis is over, but I'm not letting my guard down.

DID YOU KNOW

THE ELECTION watchdog National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) was organized in 1951 by the Philippine Veterans' Legion. First known as the National Movement for Free Election, the group changed its name several times. From Citizen's National Electoral Assembly, it became the National Citizen's Constitutional Convention Movement and then the Citizen's National Committee for Referendum, Plebiscites and Elections. It finally became known as Namfrel in 1981.

Cyril L. Bonabente,
Inquirer Research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US-led jets bomb Afghan compound, kill 7 kids

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—US-LED coalition jets bombed a compound suspected of housing al-Qaida militants in eastern Afghanistan, killing seven children and several militants, a coalition statement said Monday.

The strike, which had the support of Afghan troops, occurred Sunday as a suicide bomber blew himself up on a police academy bus in Kabul, killing at least 35 people, in the deadliest insurgent attack in Afghanistan since the US-led invasion in 2001.

The joint strike targeted a compound that also contained a mosque and a madrasa, or Islamic school, in the Zarghun Shah District of Paktika Province, a coalition statement said.

"Coalition forces confirmed the presence of nefarious activity occurring at the site before getting approval to conduct an air strike on the location," the statement said.

Early reports said seven children at the madrasa were killed in the strike and that "several militants" were also killed, the coalition statement said. Two suspected militants were also detained.

"We are saddened by the innocent lives that were lost as a result of militants' cowardice," said Maj. Chris Belcher, a coalition spokesperson. "This is another example of al-Qaida using the protective status of a mosque, as well as innocent civilians, to shield themselves," Belcher said in a statement.

Coalition troops had "surveillance on the compound all day and saw no indications there were children inside the building," Belcher said. He accused the militants of not letting the children leave the compound.

"If we knew there were children inside the building, there was no way that airstrike would have occurred," said Sgt. 1st Class Dean Welch, another coalition spokesperson.

The airstrike happened hours after a suicide bomber in the capital targeted a bus full of police trainers, killing 35 people and wounding 52 others.

The thunderous suicide blast on Sunday, which raised the specter of an increase in Iraq-style bombings with heavy casualties, was at least the fourth attack against a bus carrying Afghan police or army soldiers in Kabul in the last year. The blast sheared off the bus' metal sidings and roof, leaving a charred frame.

"Never in my life have I heard such a sound," said Ali Jawad, a 48-year-old who was selling phone cards nearby. "A big fireball followed. I saw blood and a decapitated man thrown out of the bus."

The explosion was the fifth suicide attack in Afghanistan in three days, part of a sharp spike in violence around the country. In the south, in Kandahar province, a roadside bomb killed three members of the US-led coalition and an Afghan interpreter. The soldiers' nationalities were not released, but most troops in the coalition are American.

Condemning the Kabul attack, President Hamid Karzai said the "enemies of Afghanistan" were trying to stop the development of Afghan security forces, a key component in the US-Nato strategy of handing over security responsibilities to the Afghan government one day, allowing Western forces to leave.

A self-described Taliban spokesperson, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said a Taliban suicide bomber named Mullah Asim Abdul Rahman caused the blast. Ahmadi called an Associated Press reporter from an undisclosed location. His claim could not be verified. *AP*

US drag car deaths trigger questions

SELMER, TENNESSEE—ONE day after a drag-racing car careened into a crowd and killed six people, witnesses questioned why the driver was allowed to speed down a multilane highway with no guard rails, lined on both sides by hundreds of spectators.

"It ain't really safe to do anything with drag cars on a city street," said 19-year-old Garett Moore, who said he was about 4.5 meters away from the wreck Saturday night, but was uninjured. "They shouldn't have done it."

Tennessee Highway Patrol spokesperson Mike Browning said Sunday the six killed were in their teens or early 20s. The accident injured 20 others, including a 5-year-old boy, who were taken to hospitals in Tennessee and Mississippi.

The crash happened Saturday during an "exhibition burnout"—when a drag racer spins his tires to make them heat up and smoke—at the Cars for Kids charity event in Selmer, located about 130 km east of Memphis.

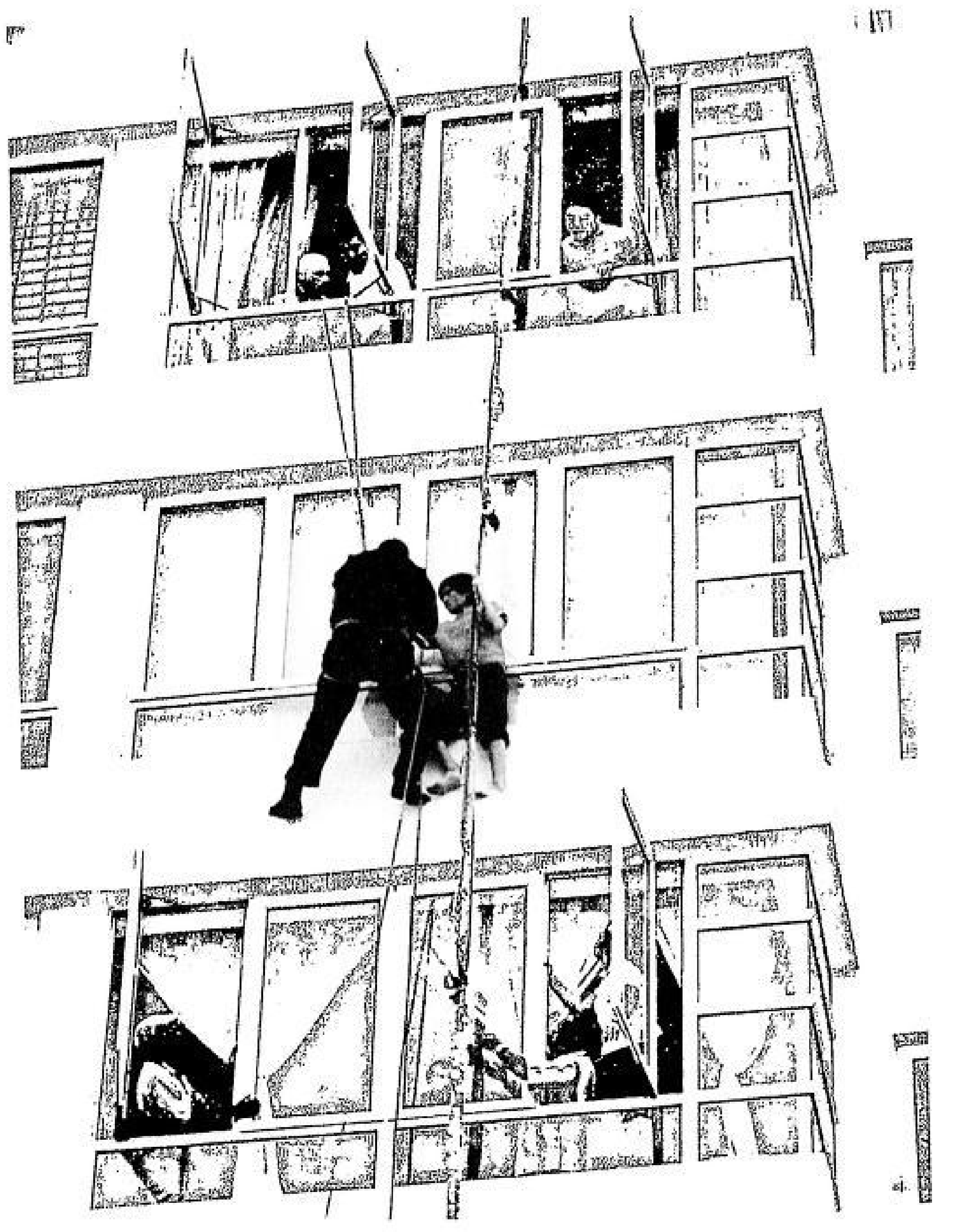
Amateur video of the crash, broadcast on WMC-TV in Memphis, showed the car's engine revving loudly before the vehicle sped down a highway. After about 100 m, the smoking car skidded off the road in front of a drive-in restaurant.

Authorities identified the driver as pro drag racer Troy Warren Critchley, an Australian who is now based in Wylie, Texas. He suffered minor injuries and was taken by car to a nearby hospital for treatment, authorities said.

There were no criminal charges against Critchley, Browning said.

There was a guard rail along at least part of the highway, but not along the stretch where the crash occurred.

Nick Staples, who was at the car show, said, "There should have been guard rails. But even if there had been, it wouldn't have mattered." *AP*



THE NOT-SO-GREAT ESCAPE

Photograph shows Indonesian maid Shamelin standing on a ledge after attempting to escape her employer's residence on the 15th floor of a building in Kuala Lumpur on June 16. She knotted pieces of cloth and used them as a rope to lower herself but got cold feet after descending three floors. AFP

Vast national broadband plan for Australia

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER John Howard on Monday announced a two-billion-dollar (1.68 billion US) plan to provide fast and affordable Internet access across the vast country.

Howard said Optus, the Australian offshoot of Singapore telco Singtel, had been awarded a 958-million-dollar contract to build a broadband network in the bush with rural finance company Elders.

The joint venture, known as Opel, would contribute a further 900 million dollars to provide broadband of at least 12 megabits per second by June 2009.

"What we have announced today is a plan that will deliver to 99 percent of the Australian population very fast and affordable broadband in just two years' time," Howard said.

An expert group will also develop a bidding process for the building of a fiber-to-the-node (FTTN) broadband network, funded solely by private companies, in major cities.

Communications Minister Helen Coonan said wireless was the best option for rural Australia because it was impossible to install cables which would reach every farm and property across the country.

"It's been specially developed for rural and regional areas, where (with) fixed broadband you've got to actually run a fiber optic," she said.

Senator Coonan said the broadband speed of 12 megabits per second could "scale up" to very fast speeds as the technology evolved.

"It will be able to go much faster, up to 70 megabits a second and of course our new high-speed fiber network will be able to go up to 50," she said.

But the opposition Labor Party attacked the plan, saying it was too little, too late ahead of this year's election and provided country people with a second-rate service. *AFP*

With tattoo remorse, costly, lengthy erasure

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA Kelly Brannigan was suffering from a case of tattoo remorse.

Just a year ago, Brannigan, 24, who holds up Case No. 24 as one of the models on the NBC game show "Deal or No Deal," had been full of hope when she and her fiancé had each other's names tattooed across their inner wrists.

But now, when she looks at the letters—P-A-T-R-I-C-K—she is reminded of the failed relationship.

For help, she turned to Dr. Tattoff, a chain of tattoo removal stores where nurses use lasers in a series of treatments to break down tattoo pigments. Dr. Tattoff is part of a growing industry catering to people who may not have thought about the implications of "forever" the first time around.

Removing tattoos is costly, uncomfortable and time-consuming, but the affinity for body art is so strong that some people said they do it to clear space to tattoo all over again.

Many dermatologists specialize in laser tattoo removal, and some laser hair-removal centers are adding services. In California, there are removal centers like Dr. Tattoff, Tat2BeGone and Tattoo MD.

On the horizon is a development that could change the very nature of tattooing: A type of ink encapsulated in beads and designed to break up after one treatment with a special laser.

The technology for the ink, called Freedom-2, was developed by scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital, and Brown and Duke universities. It is to go on sale this fall.

"We think the fence-sitters who always wanted a tattoo but have been afraid of the permanence will jump in and get tattoos," said Martin Schmieg, the chief executive of Freedom-2. "But as your life changes from young to middle-aged to older, from single to married to divorced, you get tattoo regret, so we think the tattoo removal market will increase as well." *NYT*

Democrats seek billions for renewable fuel

WASHINGTON—SENATE DEMOcrats are seeking a major reversal of energy tax policies that would take billions of dollars in tax breaks and other benefits from the oil industry to underwrite renewable fuels.

The tax increases would reverse incentives passed as recently as three years ago to increase domestic exploration and production of oil and gas. The change reflects a shift from the Republican focus on expanding oil production to the Democratic concern about reducing global warming.

On Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee will take up a bill that would raise about $14 billion from oil companies over 10 years and would give about the same amount of money on new incentives for solar power, wind power, cellulosic ethanol, and numerous other renewable energy sources. The bill is one of the signature issues this year for Democrats, along with immigration and the war in Iraq, and one in which they hope to clearly distinguish themselves from the Republicans.

But Senate Democrats are expected to go beyond the $14 billion in tax changes in the draft bill. Democratic officials said the committee is all but certain to adopt a proposal by Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico that would raise $10 billion from companies that drill for oil and gas in federal waters but do not currently pay royalties to the government.

"We are cutting back subsidies for the oil and gas industry and using that money to finance the development of new and cleaner sources of energy," said Bingaman, who plans to attach the entire tax package to the energy bill on the Senate floor next week.

It is unclear how much President Bush or Republicans in Congress will fight the proposed tax shift. The ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, has already endorsed the $14 billion package. *NYT*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

New Abbas gov't paves way for peace talks, says Israel PM

NEW YORK—VISITING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EHUD Olmert said Sunday that the newly appointed moderate Palestinian government could lead to the renewal of peace talks which have been stalled for nearly seven years.

The new government will allow the normalization of ties between Israel and the Palestinians and permit the Jewish state to take a series of steps to alleviate life for Palestinians in the West Bank, Olmert said.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas had earlier Sunday sworn in his new Western-backed cabinet and immediately outlawed fighters of the rival Hamas movement, which took over the entire Gaza Strip on Friday, routing Abbas's Fatah forces.

"We will be ready to discuss with Abbas the political horizon for what will eventually become the basis for a permanent agreement between us and the Palestinians," Olmert said in a speech before the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations in New York.

Israel was also ready to release over $600 million in Palestinian tax money which Israel had collected and withheld following the rise to power of Hamas more than a year ago.

Olmert also said Israel would ease travel restrictions across the West Bank, where the army has deployed hundreds of roadblocks in a bid to hamper the movement of militants.

The international community has welcomed the new cabinet led by Salam Fayyad which is widely expected to meet the West's conditions to lift a 15-month-long crunching economic and diplomatic boycott slapped after Hamas assumed power more than a year ago.

The conditions include recognition of Israel, renouncing violence and agreeing to abide by past interim peace deals.

The United States has already announced its intention to renew the badly needed financial aid to the Palestinian authority.

Olmert had voiced cautious optimism over chances of renewing talks with the Palestinians, although a senior official emphasized they would only pertain to the West Bank, where the new cabinet has control.

"A reality has been created in recent days which we haven't had in a long time for diplomatic steps with the evolving Palestinian Authority. We intend to work with all our strength to realize this opportunity as much as we can," he told reporters on board his plane.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in July 2000, and US and international initiatives since then have failed to kick start the process. *AFP*

China slave scandal spurs resignation calls

BEIJING—CHINESE POLICE have detained 168 people accused of involvement in slavery that trapped victims in scorching brick kilns, state media said on Monday, as outrage over official complicity rippled through the usually tame press.

Of those held, 48 were caught in Shanxi province and the rest in neighboring Henan, where hundreds of teenagers and poor farmers, and even some children, were trapped or cheated into kilns, mines and foundries, the China Daily reported.

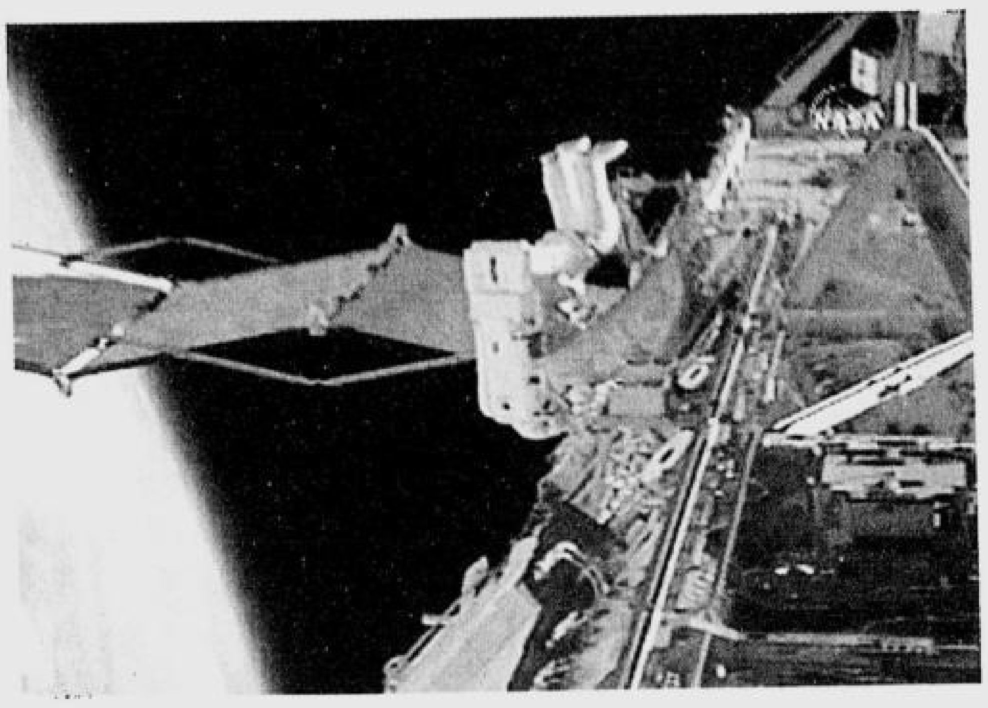
The unfolding scandal has stained the ruling Communist Party's promises to build a "harmonious" society with better rights and income for hundreds of millions of poor farmers.

Local news media have been unusually blunt in demanding answers from the government and calling for resignations.

The Southern Metropolis Daily, a popular tabloid, said the same local officials who were now parading themselves as rescuers of trapped workers had long turned a blind eye to the trade.

"Who'll assume responsibility for this crime that has lasted for over a decade?" asked the paper.

"In many countries, a scandal like this would be enough to spark a major political crisis and crisis of confidence. But here in China, to date, there's not even a hint of resignations." State television has reported that owners of primitive brick kilns ran their operations like prisons, making use of fierce dogs and thugs who beat minors. One owner accidentally killed a child with a shovel and buried the body at night, state TV said. *Reuters*



REPAIRMAN IN SPACE
Spacewalker Patrick Forrester works on one of two mechanisms that will drive rotation of the S3/S4 Truss Solar Alpha Rotary Joint in this view taken from Nasa TV on June 17. This is the 88th spacewalk in support of the International Space Station. REUTERS

8 African nations among 10 most prone to conflict

WASHINGTON—SUDAN AND SEVEN other sub-Saharan African countries are among the 10 nations in the world most vulnerable to violent internal conflict and deteriorating conditions, according to a private survey.

In the third annual "failed state" index, analysts for Foreign Policy magazine and the Fund for Peace, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to conflict resolution, Sudan was judged most at risk of failure. Violence in the Darfur region was the main contributing cause.

As evidence that troubles in failing states often cross borders, the report cited violence spilling from Darfur into the Central African Republic and Chad.

The five other African nations found most vulnerable were Somalia, Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea.

The ratings are based on 12 social, economic, political and military indicators. The only non-African states among the 10 with the lowest scores were Iraq, second only to Sudan, and Afghanistan, ranked eighth.

Their presence high on the list shows that billions of dollars in development and security aid may be futile without a functioning government, trustworthy leaders and realistic plans to keep the peace and develop the economy, the report said.

Another African country, Liberia, was credited as the most improved, partly because an election in 2005 brought stability after more than a decade of civil war.

Liberia's economy is growing at seven percent a year and it has disbanded its militia. Still, it ranked as 27th most failing state.

The growth of China's economy and a lull in violence in Chechnya helped China and Russia, respectively, to move out of the category of the 60 worst states.

Lebanon experienced the biggest slide, winding up in 28th place. War in the Middle Eastern country reversed much of the progress made since the end of its 15-year-long civil war in 1990.

Israeli air strikes last summer drove 700,000 Lebanese from their homes and caused an estimated $3.8 billion in damage to the country.

Usually, long-serving strongmen preside over a nation's collapse, the report said. Effective leadership can pull a nation from the brink of failure, it said. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St., (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2007 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Licensure Examination for Teacher's (LET) Test Booklets	P 6,490,400.00 at P 0.61/page	June 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	July 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 6,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on June 19, 2007. The deadline for the submission of Registration Requirements shall be on **July 2, 2007 at 5:00 in the afternoon.**

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on June 19, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable/ provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission, reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilitate of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

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(PDI – June 19, 2007)

Leading Italian fashion designer Ferre dies at 62

MILAN—THE ITALIAN DESIGNER GIANFRANCO Ferré, whose training as an architect had a crucial influence on his approach to fashion, died Sunday in a Milan hospital after suffering a massive brain hemorrhage. He was 62.

The condition of Ferré, who was admitted to intensive care in the San Raffaele hospital on Friday after complaining of feeling unwell, had deteriorated sharply through the night.

According to Ansa, Ferré had already suffered two strokes in the past but had managed to recover, without paying heed to medical advice.

The portly designer suffered from diabetes but had never managed to curb his sweet tooth, press reports noted.

Ferré, whose international career included eight years as artistic director for the prestigious house of Christian Dior in Paris, was born in Legnano, northern Italy, on Aug. 15, 1944.

He studied architecture in Milan, qualifying in 1969, although within a few years he had moved over into fashion. But his first love never left him: He has been called "the Frank Lloyd Wright of Italian fashion."

"Dressing a woman or man. one must think in terms of lines, volumes, proportions. It is exactly the same as 'dressing' a space. The difference, the most important one, is that. for the fashion designer the work of reference is the human body, an object in motion," he once said.

The British fashion writer Colin McDowell has said Ferré's creations had the "power and beauty of sculpture. His clothes are powerful statements of shape and have the crisp quality of origami.

"If such a thing is possible, Ferré has developed into a fashion intellectual, producing clothes of such a logical perfection that they are like the solution to a complicated engineering equation." From designing mostly jewelry and belts in the early 1970s, he moved effortlessly into women's ready-to-wear in 1974 under the Baila label.

GIANFRANCO Ferré (left), with Italian model Eva Riccobono in this January 2006 photo. AP

Three years studying handicrafts in India in the early 1970s left a permanent mark on him in a taste for exoticism and color.

It was while talking to Ferré that the legendary Diana Vreelend made her famous remark that "Pink is the navy blue of India." Ferré's down-to-earth reply was "Naturally, pink is the navy blue of India because it's the cheapest of all dyes." In 1978 he founded his own fashion house, and four years later sent out his first menswear collections.

In 1984 he was named designer of the year. The international trade press awarded him the women's ready-to-wear award five times over the following years. *AFP*

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Hamilton leaves Alonso behind /A23

SMC-RP five downs Montenegro; Seigle injured

BELGRADE, SERBIA—YOUNG AND INexperienced but tall and talented, the Montenegro under-20 national team gave the San Miguel-Philippine quintet all it could handle before going down, 99-85, Monday at the Sports Ecko Sportski Centar here.

But the Filipinos' win proved costly as forward Danny Seigle bowed out of the Serbian training stint with a pulled hamstring, even as Mark Caguioa brushed aside a punching foul he took early in the game.

Though not in their original schedule, the Nationals gave up their day-off to play the tall team that tested their defense and staying power. *(See related story below)*

SEIGLE

CAGUIOA

Montenegro started off with 6-2 point guard Marko Mijovic, 6-4 off-guard Sead Sehovic, 6-6 small forward Aleksa Popovic, 6-9 power forward Milovan Savovic, and 6-10 center Maksim Sturanovic against Jimmy Alapag, Caguioa, Dondon Hontiveros, Ranidel de Ocampo and Asi Taulava.

Seigle then came off the bench to power the Nationals to a 26-18 lead after the first quarter.

They increased this to 51-40 at the half by going to Jayjay Helterbrand and using their experience to offset the absence of Kerby Raymundo (food poisoning) and Tony dela Cruz (strained back).

Sehovic, who was called for a punching foul against Caguioa in the first quarter, returned in the second half to spark his team briefly but De Ocampo, Hontiveros and Caguioa responded to boost the advantage to 56-43.

Going to its reserves, Montenegro managed to close the gap, 74-67, going into the last quarter.

Seigle's injury came with eight minutes left. He drove, pivoted, and spun near the baseline only to go down screaming in pain from a pulled hamstring.

With Seigle out and Mick Pennisi and De Ocampo fouling out, the Nationals went to Fil-Am Gabe Norwood who shone with his aggressiveness and versatility.

"This was a good game for us to play as this team gave us a different look from the three we previously battled," said RP coach Chot Reyes.

"The downside is the injury to Danny. Will this win turn out to be costly for us? We all hope not."

The Nationals are set to compete in the Jones Cup tournament early next month, hoping to see action against some of the teams they will later face in the Fiba Asia Championship in Tokushima, Japan.

The scores:

SMC-RP 99—Taulava 16, Seigle 15, Caguioa 14, Hontiveros 13, Norwood 10, Helterbrand 10, De Ocampo 9, Pennisi 8, Alapag 4, Ritualo 0.

MONTENEGRO 85—Savovic 20, Sehovic, Sead 15, Sehovic, Suad 9, Micovic 9, Bjelic 9, Milatovic 8, Gajovic 4, Sturanovic 4, Jovanovic 4, Martinic 3.

Quarters: 26-18, 51-40, 74-67, 99-85

Cabrera thwarts Tiger, Furyk by 1

LONGSHOT Angel Cabrera hugs the US Open jug after clinching the championship at the unforgiving Oakmont in Pennsylvania. Cabrera, nicknamed "El Pato" for his waddling gait, became only the second Argentinian to win a "major." KEATS LONDON, CONTRIBUTOR

TIGER Woods lets out a scream as his 2nd shot found the rough on No. 11. REUTERS

Seizes US Open as late gaffes spill favorites

OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—ANGEL CABrera hit all the right shots to hold off two of the world's best players on a Sunday of survival at the US Open, giving Argentina its first major championship in 40 years with a 1-under-par 69 at brutal Oakmont.

Tiger Woods squandered birdie chances with his wedge and his putter. Former US Open champion Jim Furyk paid for a risky choice of driver on the 306-yard 17th hole and fell out of the lead with a bogey.

That left Cabrera as the champion.

Other Argentine winner

The only other Argentine to win a major was Roberto De Vicenzo in the 1967 British Open at Hoylake. He was equally famous for signing for the wrong score a year later at the US Masters, keeping him out of a playoff. *(See other US Open story on A24)*

"It (the feeling) is very difficult to describe at the moment," an elated Cabrera said. "Probably tomorrow, when I wake up with this trophy beside me, I will realize I won the US Open."

Cabrera made his share of mistakes—everyone did on the tough course outside Pittsburgh—but he overcame late bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes with a perfect tee shot and a par that gave him the victory.

Even so, this major will be remembered for gaffes by the guys chasing him.

Woods, a runner-up to unheralded Zach Johnson at the Masters, played the final 32 holes at Oakmont with only one birdie. He missed a birdie putt from 6 feet on the 13th, and the only clutch putts he made on the back nine were for par.

"He put a lot of pressure on Jim and I, and we didn't get it done," said Woods, who closed with a 72 and extended his dubious streak of never winning a major when he wasn't leading going into the final round.

Furyk, the 2003 US Open champion who grew up in western Pennsylvania, ran off three straight birdies on the back nine and was tied for the lead when he opted to hit driver on the 17th, where the tees were moved up. He hit so far and enough left that he had no angle to the pin, and the lie was so deep that he didn't even reach the green. His 8-foot par putt caught the lip and spun away.

Needing birdie on the final hole, Furyk dropped the club after contact, and his long putt never had a chance.

Cabrera, who had two of just eight subpar rounds in the tournament and finished at 5-over 285, was in the clubhouse watching Woods and Furyk try to catch him.

Needing one birdie

As poorly as Woods hit the ball in the final round, he only needed one birdie over his final three holes to force a playoff. Woods hit 3-wood off the 17th tee into a deep bunker, but he couldn't keep it on the green and had to make a 7-footer for par.

His tee shot on the 18th looked good when it left his club, but hopped along the line of first cut and deep rough, and his approach ran some 30 feet by the flag. His birdie putt was just long and right, and Woods again was the last man to leave the 18th green at a major, no trophy in hand.

Cabrera might not have been the winner anyone expected. A birdie on his final hole Friday caused Phil Mickelson to miss the cut in a major for the first time in eight years, and he was even stronger down the stretch with Woods and Furyk, No. 1 and No. 3 in the world, both poised to catch him.

He blew a chance to win the BMW Championship in Europe last month by topping a tee shot on the back nine, and Cabrera showed signs of a struggle late in the afternoon when he bogeyed the 16th and missed the 17th green with a wedge to drop into a tie for the lead with Furyk.

"He just kept himself calm," caddie Eddie Gardino said. "He might go and win the British Open; he knows he can do it."

Furyk went 70-70 on the weekend, and still had to settle for another silver medal. A year ago, he missed a 6-foot par putt on the final hole at Winged Foot and finished one shot behind Geoff Ogilvy.

"I had a lot of opportunities," Furyk said.

Aaron Baddeley, who had a two-shot lead over Woods going into the final round, three-putted from 8 feet for triple bogey on the opening hole and wound up with an 80.

It was the third straight year no one broke par at the US Open, the longest streak in 46 years. Associated Press

Singapore lady booters avenge loss to Filipinas

By Jasmine W. Payo

SINGAPORE'S Luo Jianzhen gets to the ball a step ahead of the RP team's Nenita Dollente-Burgess in yesterday's match. INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

SINGAPORE'S WOMEN'S FOOTball squad avenged its first-game loss to the Philippine team with a similar shutout win yesterday.

The Lionesses pounced hard in the first 22 minutes to avert an RP sweep with a 2-0 victory at the close of their two-game goodwill series at the PhilSports pitch.

Midfielder Mahadi Mishairati converted on a 45-yard free kick that rocketed past the outstretched arms of RP goalkeeper Richelle Besana four minutes into the contest. Luo Jianzhen sealed the match for Singapore with a roller in the 22nd minute.

"I know what my players are capable of doing, and they did what they have to do," said Singapore coach Nathaniel Naplah.

"(The Philippines) played exactly the way they did last Saturday, but they made two mistakes and we capitalized on it."

The Filipinas won the opener, 3-0, on Saturday with goals from Elisa Benitez, Edna Agravante and Rachelle delos Reyes.

Aside from the early defensive meltdowns, the young Philippine crew also missed several opportunities from the corner.

"We had three corner kicks, we were able to execute the plays, but their defensive line was diligent enough to clear balls," said team manager Ernest Nierras.

The Philippines missed top goalkeeper Nadia Galang due to a fever in the first half.

But with the early collapse, Galang opted to suit up in the second half in favor of Besana.

The Philippines also played without head coach Marlon Maro in the series due to an official engagement with the Asian Football Confederation in Laos.

Also missing in the RP lineup were veteran starters Marilou Rubio and Marnelli Dimzon.

Manila Invitational tests Pinoy cagers

THE SAN MIGUEL-PILIPINAS national team gets to toughen up some more for the coming Olympic-qualifying Fiba Asia Championship in Tokushima, Japan, when it faces topnotch opposition in the four-nation PBA-Manila Invitational Championships slated July 12-15.

The national teams of Syria, Lebanon and powerhouse China are arriving to test the mettle of coach Chot Reyes' squad, which is close to wrapping up its weeklong training stint in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Invitational tournament format calls for a single round robin among the four teams, with the top two squads vying for the championship and the other two playing for third place.

Games on July 12 and 14 will be held at The Arena in San Juan, while the Araneta Coliseum will host the July 13 and 15 matches.

The Big Dome games on the 13th and the 15th will serve as curtain-raisers to the PBA Fiesta Conference Finals.

The Tokushima Fiba Asia, set July 28 to Aug. 5, will pick Asia's representative to the Beijing Olympics next year.

As Olympics host, Asian champion China is seeded to the Games.

If the Chinese win the Fiba Asia Championship, then the runner-up will go to Beijing as well. If China finishes neither No. 1 or No. 2, then only the Fiba Asia champion gets a ticket to the Olympiad.

The Nationals, who are also playing in the Jones Cup tournament in Taipei early next month, are bracketed in the tough Group A with China, Jordan and Iran in the Fiba Asia tournament.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
DA-MUL MART G/F Casa Blanca Bldg., 1447 M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila	Young Mi Kim	Sales Manager
DUZON EDUIGN INC. 14/F Tower II Insular Life Bldg., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hyunsun Kim	Technical Deputy Director
DUZON EDUIGN INC. 14/F Tower II Insular Life Bldg., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hyun Kee Hong	School Director
4D STEEL DETAILING (ASIA) LIMITED Unit 303 A & B, Taipan Place Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Kenneth Martin Rowell	Branch Manager - Manila
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Gregory Charles Pratt	Senior Order Entry Rep
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Elizabeth Marie Staub	Senior Staff Specialist
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Michael Ray Carrillo	Senior Manager
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2 , 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Clement Athelston O'Garro	MM Manager
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	James Kevin Brooks	MM Senior Manager (Customer Service)
OHSUNG TRAVEL & TOURS AGENCY, INC. Unit 13-8137, Plaza J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Kisuk Oh	Accountant
MECASIS GLOBAL INCORPORATED Unit 2, Grand Blvd. Hotel, 1990 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Young Kee Hong	Assistant Operations Manager
BOGIL FOODS CORPORATION Lot 1A-3 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Kwang Oh Chang	General Manager
BOGIL FOODS CORPORATION Lot 1A-3 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Mi Kyoung Lee	Assistant General Manager
COLD MEADOW LTD. CO. 919 Sto. Cristo St., Tondo, Manila	Weidong Yu	Consultant
COLD MEADOW LTD. CO. 919 Sto. Cristo St., Tondo, Manila	Tianxu Chen	Assistant General Manager
COLD MEADOW LTD. CO. 919 Sto. Cristo St., Tondo, Manila	Kunren Chen	Marketing Manager
MARCUS EVANS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 4/F Rufino Bldg., 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Patrick Khumalo	Sales Director
ME NIHONGO LANGUAGE & CULTURE EXCHANGE INC. 3rd Flr. A & M Bldg., 397 Binakod St., Olympia, Makati City	Ji Ja Sohn	Teacher
ASAHI GLASS PHILIPPINES, INC. Bo. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	Wataru Morita	Technical Manager - Production
ASAHI GLASS PHILIPPINES, INC. Bo. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	Yasuyoshi Kataoka	Assistant Division Head-Production
SN POWER HOLDINGS SINGAPORE PTE. LTD.-PHIL. REP. OFFICE 9/F Unit 911 Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Torbjom Elliot Kirkeby-Garstad	Senior Advisor
K2 TOP CORPORATION Unit 112 CLS I Bldg., Kaunlaran Village, Dagat-Dagatan Ave., Kalookan City	Min Kyoung Park (wife of CHOI)	Assistant General Manager
PAVILLION MASSAGE 1605 Balagtas St., Balagtas Mansion, Pasay City	Mi Heui Kim (w/o Jung)	Assistant General Manager
PAVILLION MASSAGE 1605 Balagtas St., Balagtas Mansion, Pasay City	Seok Bae Jung	General Manager
I T KOR INC. 1715 J. Bocobo St., Malate, Manila	Chang Seob Kim	Marketing Manager
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Xia Gao	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Keh Shiong Yap	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ching Liang Wong	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sutrisno	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Loong Ming Thin	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Zhi Hong Tan	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	How Chet Tan	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Lan Su	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wai Theng Liew	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Doris Lee Hui Ling	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Danny Tai Hien Woon	Customer Service Representative
YUVRAJ TRADING CORPORATION 15 F.B. Javier Cmpd., Caniogan, Pasig City	Sudesh Kumar	Operations Manager
FIRST SKS LENDING & TRADING CORP. #5 San Antonio de Padua St., Villa Sabina Subd., Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City	Sukhvir Kaur	Operations Manager
FIRST SKS LENDING & TRADING CORP. #5 San Antonio de Padua St., Villa Sabina Subd., Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City	Harvinder Kaur Brar	Personnel Manager
C.A.A. MANPOWER CORP. Unit 302, Avenue Square Garden, #532 UN Ave., Cor. J. Bocobo St., Malate, Manila	Mei Hui Chiang	Interviewer
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr. Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave, Makati City	Chee Kiong Sia	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Deputy Manager-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tim Fu Choon	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kem Ho Ng	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Junior Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Rudy Ramlan	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Senior Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hock Chai Lim	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Research & Development Officer-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kok Chian Yap	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 14th Flr. Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Patrick Remy Brisemur	Risk Management Representative
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr. Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hong Chuan Tan	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Manager-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wai Aun Tee	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
GAMINGWEB INC. 17th Flr., Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Poi Heong Ong	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Assistant Operations Manager-Unit 2

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity.
For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - June 19, 2007)

Pacman is back, says he wants Soto

MANNY PACQUIAO ARRIVED yesterday from a vacation in the United States and reiterated his desire to avenge the loss of his brother Bobby to Mexican Humberto Soto in New York recently.

"It's going to be a beautiful fight; Soto is also good," said Pacquiao, who was accompanied by wife Jingkee and sons Emmanuel Jr. and Michael Stephen.

Manny received his award as Fighter of the Year from the Boxing Writers Association of America on June 8, and then gave his deposition in the case filed by Golden Boy Promotions against Top Rank in Los Angeles. Nothing definite has come out of the promotional tug-of-war. *Roy Luarca*

RP's Olympic boxing-gold hopes deflate

By June Navarro

AMATEUR BOXING, THE COUNtry's brightest hope for an Olympic boxing gold, has already missed three international tournaments while waiting for a corporate sponsor promised them by the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We were told by the PSC to stay put and they assured us that we already have a corporate sponsor," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, yesterday.

"We don't want to preempt the PSC's plans for us, so we're just waiting for them to make the move."

Reports that telecommunications magnate Manny V. Pangilinan and San Miguel Corp. are being tapped to serve as amateur boxing "godfather" have yet to be confirmed, however.

In the meantime, Lopez said the Nationals had to beg off from the King's Cup in Thailand last April, missed a competitive tournament in Germany last month and failed to join the Asian Championships two weeks ago in Mongolia.

"We couldn't participate in those tournaments because of a tight budget and lack of sponsors," said Lopez. "There's another tournament that we are supposed to participate in but we might miss it again."

Lopez's fighters are set to compete in a week-long tournament in Kazakshtan on June 21.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez went to Cuba last week for a series of meetings with Cuban sports officials and he will not be back until next week.

Hometown decisions

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, there is no reason for Team Philippines to celebrate just because Thailand, host of this year's 24th Southeast Asian Games, has added 46 more events to the SEAG calendar.

At least 15 of these events are considered gold-medal potentials for the Filipino athletes, according to sports officials.

The additional events are in dancesport, billiards and snooker, bodybuilding, cycling, traditional boat race, diving, gymnastics, wushu and karatedo.

A total of 485 gold medals in 43 sports will now be disputed in the biennial meet set on Dec. 6-16.

I have high hopes for the Filipino athletes, but I agree with the observation of POC vice president and 24th SEAG chief of mission Rep. Monico Puentevella that host Thailand will beat the Philippines, the SEAG defending champion, in the race for the overall title.

"A decent second place would be good enough," added the congressman from Bacolod.

* * *

Traditionally, the SEAG host country always emerges on top. Thailand first hosted and emerged victorious in the inaugural games in 1959. In 2003, Vietnam hosted the games for the first time and won the overall title while in 2005 host Philippines finally snared the overall championship.

Mainly because of home court advantage, I expect the Thais to rule this year's SEAG. Not only that. I am also bothered by the expected rash of hometown decisions. And wary, too, of a left-handed compliment.

* * *

Take dancesport for instance. I am worried about our chances in the dance competitions even though Thailand has increased the number of dancesport events from two to 10 this year. I failed, however, to get the opinion of Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia, who is now in Germany. In the 2005 SEAG, the Philippines swept the two gold medals at stake when Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora won the Latin dance finals and the Rico Rosima-Filomena Salvador pair ruled the Standard dance.

Filipino dance athletes have been doing well in recent years, particularly the Latin category dancers, who are now ranked among the best in the Asia-Pacific region. Still, Thailand is the country's biggest threat in December.

"Dancers from Thailand started many years ahead of us, but our dance athletes did better in the international scene," Garcia said. "I told our athletes that they'd come too long, trained too hard and traveled too far to let up now."

* * *

I was recently given a clean bill of health by my doctors and I want to thank them for their effort. I am especially grateful to Dr. Enrique Puentespina, diplomate, Philippine Board of Neurology; Dr. Araceli Maliwat, internal medicine pulmonary disease specialist; and Dr. Cely Sy-Aguilera, my physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor.

Kudos likewise to the hardworking, courteous and efficient staff of Gilas-Sigla Therapy and Rehabilitation Center in my hometown in Marilao, Bulacan.

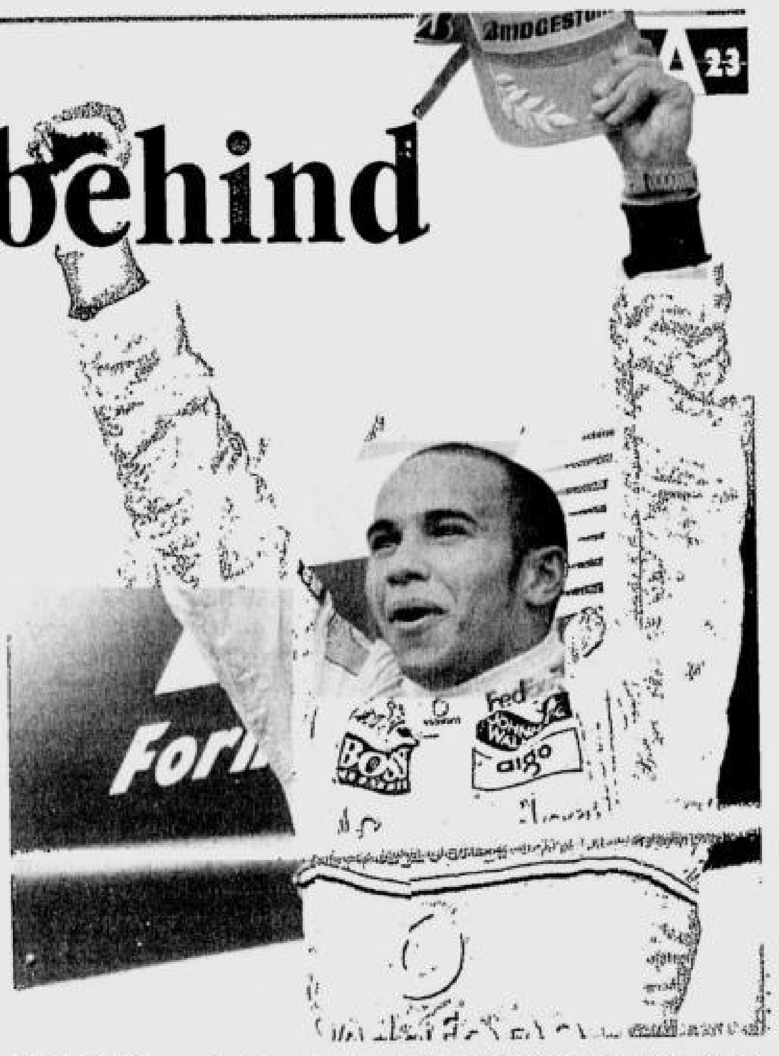
One of the most modern rehab centers in the province, Gilas-Sigla was constructed during the administration of former three-time Mayor Nonoy Duran through the initiative of Vice Mayor Tito Santiago and continued through the years by reelected Mayor Peping Guillermo.

I'd like to also thank Gilas-Sigla physical theraphists Janice, Michelle, Ryan, Al and Lawrence, Jocelyn of the St. Nazarenos Hospital Foundation and speech-language pathologists Henry and Princess of Thera Needs.

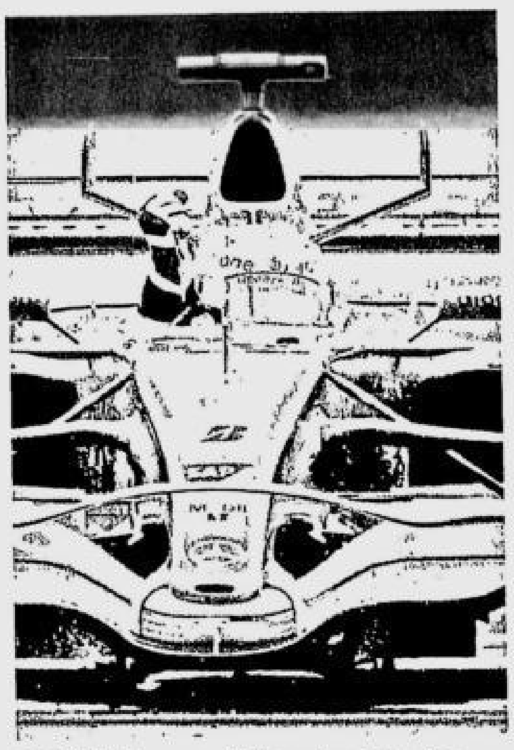
Top provincial cockers join Roligon's 'Hatawan'

MORE COCKERS AND GAMEFOWL BREEDERS FROM THE PROVINCES REGIStered for the much-awaited "Hatawan Sa Tag-ulan" 6- Cock Derby slated July 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. To be sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, the derby dangles a guaranteed prize of P3.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800, according to host Rolly Ligon. Among those who signed up were Bobby Seelin of Bataan, Romulo Balbedera of Iloilo, Benny Lado of Quezon, Rep. Gerry Espina of Biliran, Boy Marcelino and Darwin Torres of Bulacan and Reden Arcibal, Rudy Cruz and Arnel Geronga of Batangas.

Hamilton leaves Alonso behind



McLAREN'S Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton rejoices on the podium after winning the United States F1 Grand Prix in Indianapolis. REUTERS



HAMILTON pumps his fist as he salutes the crowd at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. AFP

Grand Prix win fuels tension between McLaren drivers

INDIANAPOLIS—LEWIS HAMILTON'S US Grand Prix victory on Sunday will only fuel the tension between him and McLaren team mate Fernando Alonso.

The 22-year-old British rookie's back-to-back wins in Canada and the United States, and seven podium finishes from his first seven races, stretched his overall lead over the Spanish double world champion to 10 points.

Hamilton has become the man of the moment while Alonso has been pushed out of the limelight to the point where they arrived in Indianapolis amid talk of cracks appearing in their relationship as team mates.

"Do I expect more speculation about our guys and their relationship? Yes," said McLaren chief executive Martin Whitmarsh after the team's third one-two of the season.

"The reality is both our guys are winners, they want to win. If Fernando got out of the car and said he was delighted Lewis beat him today, I would be very worried.

"It can be a distraction but at the moment it isn't. But when you have two competitive drivers they're always going to have a go at each other," he added.

"There's a lot a pressure on Fernando to have someone as young and as confident and seemingly invincible as Lewis is.

"Fernando is a phenomenal competitor and it's still a long season and he's still aiming to win the world championship."

The Spaniard conceded nothing to his British team mate afterwards, other than being surprised by his brilliant debut.

"It has been a surprise for me and a surprise for everybody to see him (Hamilton) doing so well and leading the championship at this point," said the 25-year-old. "But I have big confidence. "We only did seven races, 10 to go. So I'm very happy with my 48 points and the championship will be decided at the end." *Reuters*

Kobe still inclined to part ways with Lakers

KOBE BRYANT AP

LOS ANGELES—LOS Angeles superstar Kobe Bryant posted a not so subtle suggestion on his website Sunday that a change of scenery might be the best thing for him and the Lakers.

"The more I thought about the future, the more I became convinced that the Lakers and me just have two different visions for the future," Bryant wrote.

The two-time National Basketball Association scoring champion has become increasingly upset over the direction of the Lakers.

"When you love something as much as I love the Lakers (it's) hard to even imagine thinking about being elsewhere. But, the one thing I will never sacrifice when it comes to basketball is winning."

Bryant said earlier this month that he is fed up with empty promises from Lakers' management and now it is time to move on via the trade route.

Bryant, who joined the Lakers in 1996, has four years left on his contract which also includes a no trade clause which he would have to waive.

"Now there is a new road ahead," he wrote Sunday. "I am gonna keep grinding and keep working to get back to competing for championships. Sometimes the trek up the mountain is tough." *AFP*

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Reign Of D'Jungle (2), Power Dance (5), Vhingget (4), Celestial (7)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Road Runner (5), Iverson (7), Graceful Conqueror (6), Bom's Treasure (9), Please Don't Stop (3).

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Valentine Girl (2), Record Holder (7), All Class (3), St. Emilion (6)

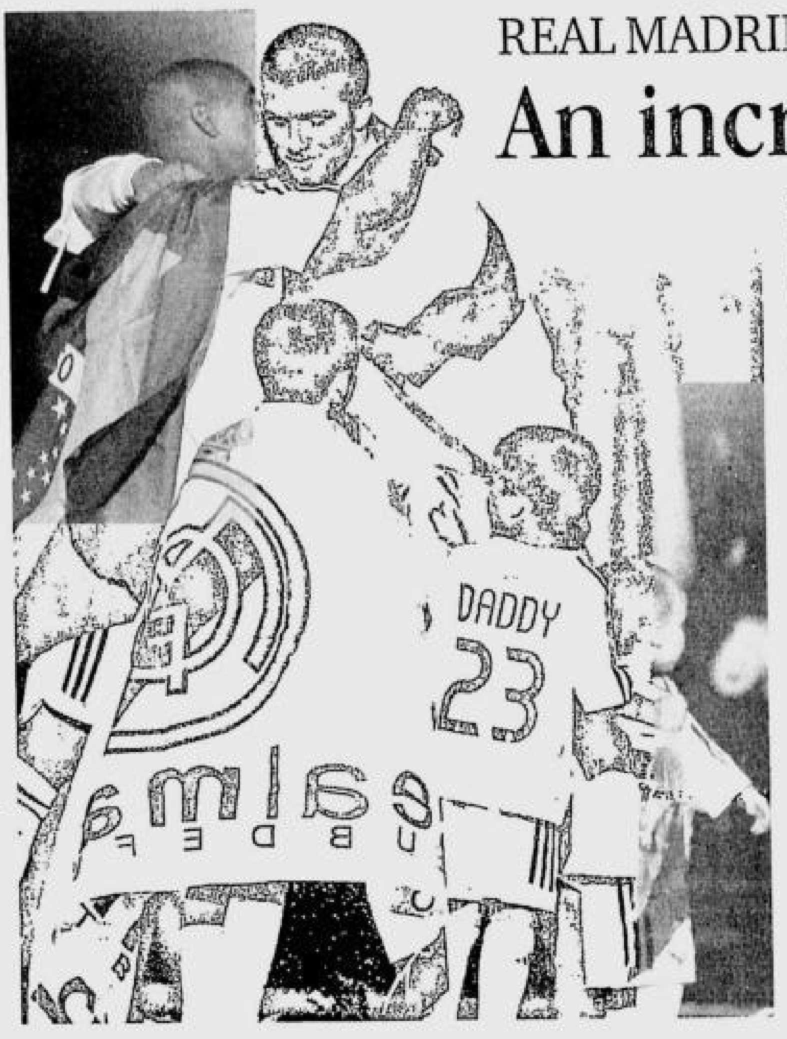
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Blue Sheikh (4), Selectee (2), Mr. Gee (9), Sovereign Dancer (8), Rho Sig (3), Yankee Clipper (1)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Virgin Island (4), Bloodline (8), House Of Riches (6), Speed Admiral (5)

Race 6—Interceptor (10), Dazzling Affair (9), Dashing (1), Native Prince (2), Mr. Lucas (2)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Bachelor Of Arts (3), Step On The Gas (7), Angie Red (5), Romanticist (6)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—El Love Senora (9), Refreshing (6), Sweet Peanut (10), Iron Hand (4), Scarlet Velvet (3), Boss Lady (7)



REAL Madrid's Roberto Carlos (left) hugs David Beckham as he celebrates with his children after their victory over Real Mallorca. REUTERS

REAL MADRID TITLE

An incredible finish—Beckham

MADRID—DAVID BECKHAM BROUGHT the curtain down on his Real Madrid career on Sunday and described the team's Spanish title triumph as one of his greatest achievements.

Beckham, watched by wife Victoria and Hollywood pals Tom Cruise and the actor's wife Katie Holmes, admitted the championship win made up for some difficult times since he arrived in the Spanish capital in the summer of 2003, both on and off the pitch.

"I couldn't have dreamt it any better. It's been about winning the title for the last six months, and we've deserved it tonight," said Beckham, who left the pitch after 65 minutes on Sunday when Real were losing 1-0 to Mallorca.

His replacement Juan Antonio Reyes then scored twice as Madrid battled back for a 3-1 win.

"It's been an incredible experience but all I remember now is the great things. Winning this tonight now puts to bed everything else.

"It's amazing to have my family here. They have been with me for four years in Spain. They've been through the ups and downs and they've felt the euphoria tonight.

"It meant the world to have everyone that supported me throughout my career: my whole family, my wife, my mum and dad, my sister and children. It's incredible," a delighted Beckham told Sky Sports.

Meanwhile, Real coach Fabio Capello admitted two mistakes in his handling of the former England captain.

"I was wrong about two things this season. Firstly, not renewing Beckham's contract. Secondly, keeping him apart from the team," admitted Capello, when asked whether he would have done anything different in the wake of Real winning a record 30th league title.

Capello had advised Real president Ramon Calderon last autumn that Beckham didn't figure in his long term plans and, with his contract coming to an end this season, Beckham started negotiations with American side LA Galaxy.

Beckham then stunned the world by announcing in January that he had signed a five-year deal, worth up to 250 million dollars, with the Major League Soccer side.

In return, Capello said Beckham would never play for Real again but injuries and public clamour forced the Italian to change his mind a month later.

The player then went on to play a crucial role in Real's run over the final stages of the season.

He even regained his England place.

"He was and still is a great player. Over the past two months he's regained all his physical condition and without a doubt is one of the best players I've ever coached," said Capello on Saturday.

Real finished on equal points with rivals Barcelona but won on a better head-to-head record, despite Barca thrashing Gimnastic Tarragona 5-1 on the final day of the season. *AFP*

Yankees trounce Mets; Bonds smashes home run No. 748

NEW YORK—ALEX RODRIGUEZ homered and drove in three runs and Wang Chien-ming struck out a career-high 10 batters as the New York Yankees overpowered the cross-town Mets 8-2 in interleague play on Sunday.

Rodriguez delivered his Major League-leading 27th home run of the season, a two-run shot, in the first inning to help the Yankees to their 11th win in 12 games.

Wang (7-4) came within one out of a complete game. He gave up six hits and two runs and walked only one batter.

"He was really throwing hard," the Mets' Carlos Beltran told reporters.

"I didn't know he was capable of throwing 95, 96, 97 (miles per hour)."

Johnny Damon and Jorge Posada also homered for the Yankees.

Orlando Hernandez struck out six and walked one for the Mets. The former Yankee pitcher gave up seven hits and six runs.

Miquel Cairo's run-scoring double and Damon's RBI single pushed the Yankees's lead to 4-0 in the second and Rodriguez made it 5-0 with a sacrifice fly in the third.

Damon homered in the sixth for a 6-0 advantage and Posada's two-run shot in the eighth gave the Yankees their final runs.

Wang had a two-hitter going until the seventh inning when Carlos Delgado's two-out double netted the Mets their first run.

Barry Bonds hit his 748th career home run to move within seven of all-time leader Hank Aaron, but his San Francisco Giants lost 9-5 to the Boston Red Sox, who swept the series.

Justin Morneau's walk-off homer lifted the Minnesota Twins to a 10-9 home win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Chad Tracy's tie-breaking single in the eighth inning helped the Arizona Diamondbacks hand the Orioles their eighth consecutive loss, a 6-4 decision in Baltimore.

Jonny Gomes homered twice and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays ended a four-game losing streak with a 7-4 road victory over the Colorado Rockies.

The LA Angels pounded out 16 hits on the way to a 10-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers. *Reuters*

BARRY Bonds signals into the Boston Red Sox dugout after hitting his 748th career. AP

SAN FRANCISCO

El Pato turns out better than Tiger at Oakmont

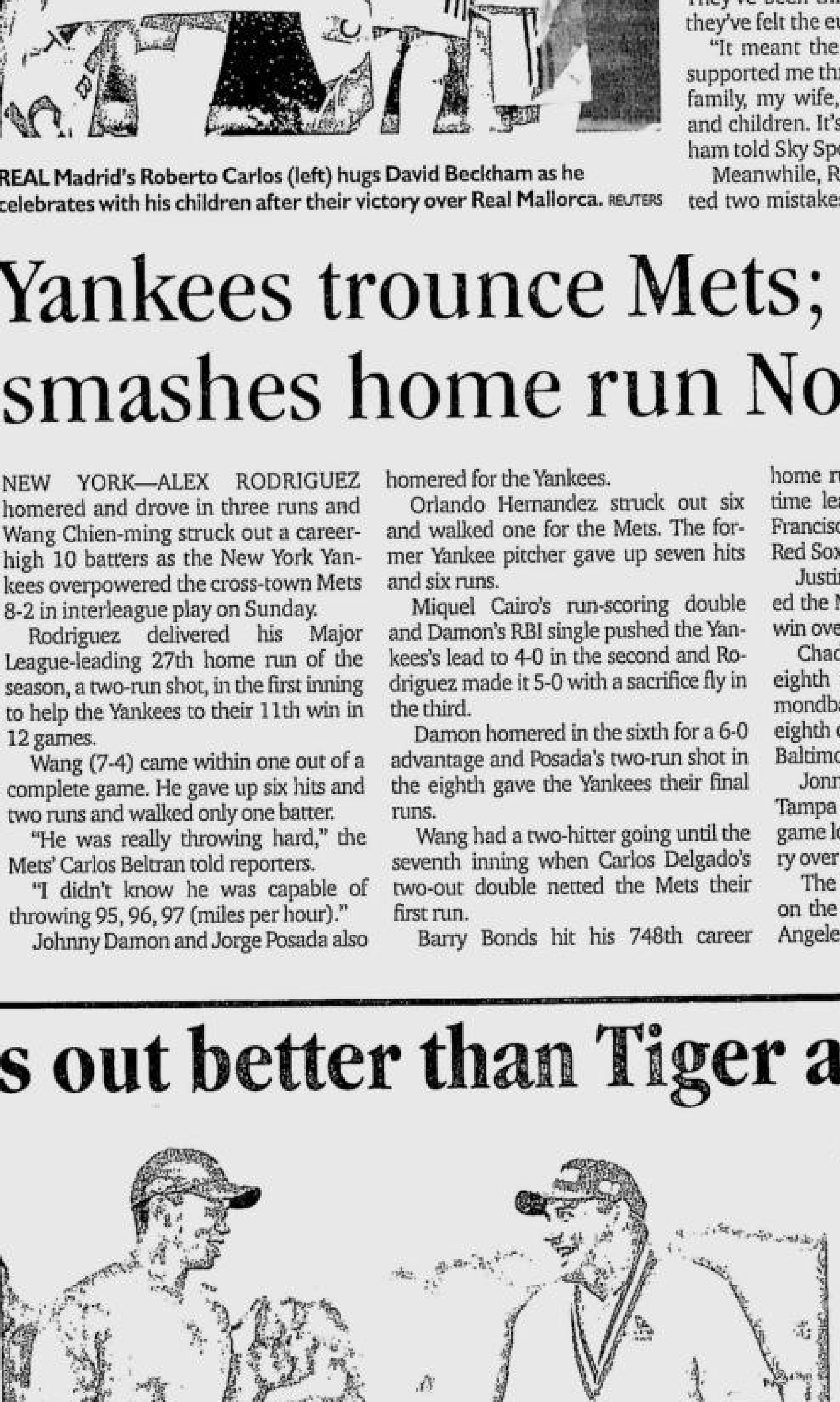
OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—HEARD the fable about the hare and the tortoise? What about the one about the duck and the tiger?

Argentina's Angel Cabrera, nicknamed "el pato"—the duck—in honor of his waddling gait down the fairways proved too hot to handle at the US Open on Sunday for the thoroughbred that is Tiger Woods.

While Woods is the epitome of the modern-day, laser-focused, chiseled athlete, Cabrero is a throw back to the old days—overweight and puffing on a cigarette between shots.

But all that was irrelevant at Oakmont in Sunday's final round as Cabrero first of all caught Woods, who started the day two strokes ahead of him, moved ahead and then watched transfixed as the world's top golfer tried to reel him in.

In the end he couldn't and Cabrero had etched his name into the golfing history books with the first ever win for a South American in the US Open and only the second from the continent in the history of the majors after Roberto Di Vicenzo's triumph in the 1967 British Open.



Angel Cabrera (right) and Tiger Woods chat after the US Open Championship. REUTERS

Cabrera, one of the few golfers on the major circuit to require a translator into English, admitted it had been a nerve-jangling experience finding himself in the cross-hairs of golf's superstar.

"I was definitely feeling nervous, but I assumed that this is the same sensation everybody was having in my place," he said.

The 37-year-old Cabrera has done it the hard way battling his way up from the streets of Argentina's second city Cordoba to reach the top in a sport that is very much a poor relation in his football-mad home country.

"I started as a caddie when I was 10 years old in Cordoba Golf Club, my home club, and they allowed caddies to play on Mondays and that's when I started playing golf, and I turned pro when I was 20 years old," he said.

"I wasn't able to finish elementary school and I had to work as a caddie to put some food on the table, so that's why probably these moments are enjoyed even more than the common things."

Sponsored by Argentina's top golfer of the last 20 years and fellow Cordoban Eduardo Romero, Caberero gradually worked his way up the European PGA Tour rankings winning the 2002 Benson and Hedges International and the 2005 BMW Championship.

He also came close to winning the British Open at Carnoustie in 1999 and has been in contention before at the Masters.

Cabrera has made the US Open cut every year since his first appearance in 2000. *AFP*

How they scored at the 107th US Open

USA unless noted, a-denotes amateur:

285—Angel Cabrera (ARG) 69-71-76-69; 286—Jim Furyk 71-75-70-70, Tiger Woods 71-74-69-72; 287—Niclas Fasth (SWE) 71-71-75-70; 289—David Toms 72-72-73-72, Bubba Watson 70-71-74-74; 290—Nick Dougherty (ENG) 68-77-74-71, Scott Verplank 73-71-74-72, Jerry Kelly 74-71-73-72; 291—Justin Rose (ENG) 71-71-73-76, Stephen Ames (CAN) 73-69-73-76, Paul Casey (ENG) 77-66-72-76; 292—Lee Janzen 73-73-73-73, Hunter Mahan 73-74-72-73, Steve Stricker 75-73-68-76, Aaron Baddeley (AUS) 72-70-70-80; 293—Carl Pettersson (SWE) 72-72-75-74, Tim Clark (RSA) 72-76-71-74, Jeff Brehaut 73-75-70-75; 294—Anthony Kim 74-73-80-67, Mike Weir (CAN) 74-72-73-75, Vijay Singh (FIJ) 71-77-70-76; 295—Ken Duke 74-75-73-73, Brandt Snedaker 71-73-77-74, Nick O'Hern (AUS) 76-74-71-74; 296—Camilo Villegas (COL) 73-77-75-71, Boo Weekley 72-75-77-72, J.J. Henry 71-78-75-72, Stuart Appleby (AUS) 74-72-71-79; 297—Pablo Martin (ESP) 71-76-77-73, Peter Hanson (SWE) 71-74-78-74, Fred Funk 71-78-74-74, D.J. Brigman 74-74-74-75, Charl Schwartzel (RSA) 75-73-73-76, Graeme McDowell (NIR) 73-72-75-77; 298—Lee Westwood (ENG) 72-75-79-72, Shingo Katayama (JPN) 72-74-79-73, Mathew Goggin (AUS) 77-73-74-74, Jeev Milkha Singh (IND) 75-75-73-75, Ian Poulter (ENG) 72-77-72-77, Tom Pernice 72-72-75-79. *AFP*

SPORTS

Asean Schools junior golf up at Southwoods

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES SETS OUT AS the heavy favorite when it hosts the 6th Asean Schools junior golf championship starting today at the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.

Teams from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will be challenging the Filipinos in the tournament for students 18 years old and under.

Composing the RP team are Jan Michael Karel Yee, John Kier Abdon, Joey Huerva IV, Joel Pauig Vijay Vasandani IV, Celestino Lawrence, Regina de Guzman, Sunshine Baraquiel, Irina Paulin Gabasa, Angela de Villa and Marian Woo.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez will welcome the delegations while National Golf Association of the Philippines president Leandro Mendoza will be the guest of honor during the opening rites.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Lady Stags take on Lady Archers today

JACQUELINE Alarca sets up a play for La Salle during its match against Lyceum on Sunday. The Lady Archers prevailed.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SAN SEBASTIAN TRIES TO FIRM UP ITS BID FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP berth when it tackles La Salle in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament today.

The Lady Stags, who claimed the solo lead at the expense of the Ateneo Lady Eagles on Sunday, will shoot for their second straight semifinal victory at 2 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

University of Santo Tomas opens its semifinal campaign versus Ateneo at 4 p.m.

San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb said there's no room for complacency against the La Salle squad that had earlier bumped off Lyceum from the top spot.

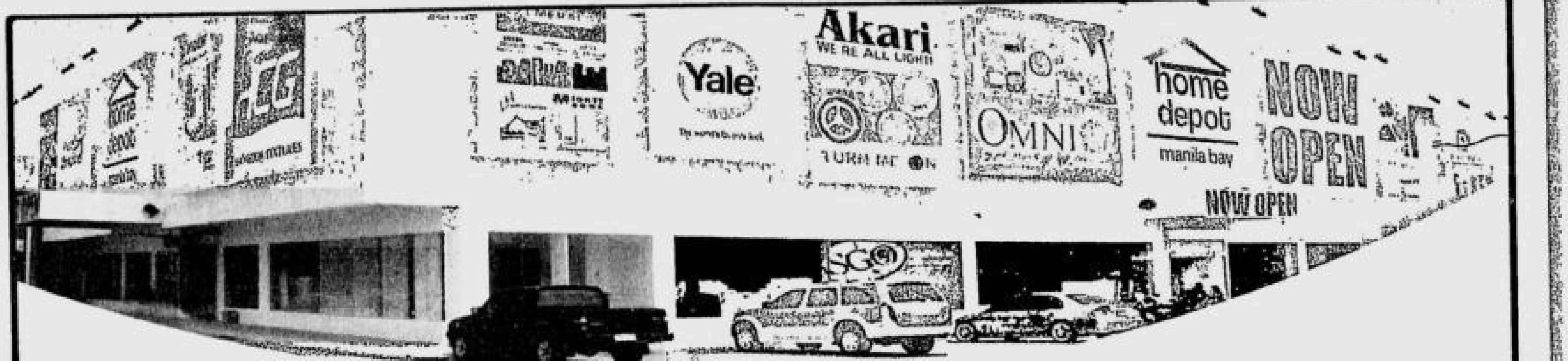
The Lady Archers stunned the Lady Pirates, 25-9, 25-21, 25-16, with Thai guest player Areerat Sanorseang scoring 14 points.

Desiree Hernandez added 11 for the defending champion Lady Archers, who had to beat the Adamson Lady Falcons in a playoff to clinch the last semifinal slot.

The Lady Stags also turned to Thai Joroensri Bualee, who starred in their 25-19, 25-17, 25-23 triumph over Ateneo last Sunday that raised their record to 7-1.

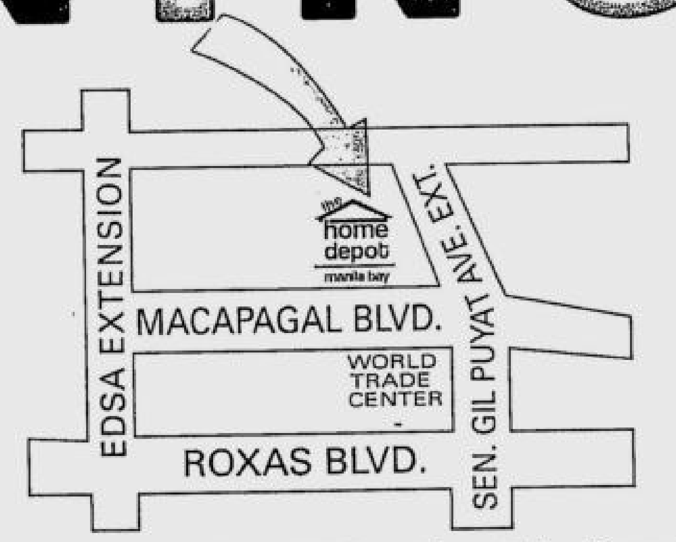
The Lady Stags, the reigning NCAA champions, also drew crucial offensive performances from Jinni Mondejar, Laurence Ann Latigay and Rysabelle Devanadera.

With three games left, La Salle and UST remain capable of toppling the league leaders. Ateneo's chance, however; looked dim with its 3-5 card. *Jasmine W. Payo*



GRAND OPENING

the home depot
manila bay



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The Home Depot Group Launches its Loyalty Card Program

Its innovative milestone system assures loyal customers of guaranteed rewards

2The Home Depot Group recently launched its Loyalty Card Program for its loyal patrons and frequent buyers. From homeowners, would-be homeowners, contractors, architects, interior designers and developers, every customer who frequently patronizes any of its three Home Depot outlets in Alabang-Westgate, Manila Bay and Ortigas Town Center can avail of the loyalty card program just by dropping by its Customer Sales Service counter located inside its DIY Superstore to apply for a loyalty card. The loyalty card is grouped into INDIVIDUAL and BUSINESS members. Individual Members would be made available to homeowners while Business Members would apply to trade and institutional buyers.

The customer's name and contact details will be encoded in Home Depot's computerized database file and immediately be able to avail of customer discounts for purchases inside any of its DIY Supesrtores.

Among the privileges of having the Home Depot Loyalty Card are - discounts on regular items, regular updates on upcoming promotional activities, free quarterly subscription of HOME MAGAZINE and most importantly, accumulate points through its mileage rewards system. All the purchases done through the loyalty card would be record in Home Depot's database and upon reaching a certain milestone, the card member shall automatically receive corresponding rewards and gifts. The accumulated sales figure/milestone will not be reset upon redemption of the reward. The milestone is set in several increments from Php100,000 to Php10million. For each milestone reached, a corresponding reward will be given.

The increasingly popular chain of home centers is known for its innovative programs like the HOME PRICE GUARANTEE Program, assuring its customers that they can avail of the most competitive prices in the market. With its latest outlet recently opened, the Manila Bay Home Depot is located at the corner of Macapagal Blvd. and Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., just a stone's throw away from World Trade Center in Pasay City. The other two major outlets are Westgate Alabang Home Depot located along Alabang-Zapote Road corner Filinvest Ave., Westgate-Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City and ORTIGAS Home Depot located along Julia Vargas Ave. corner Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Another standalone outlet is located Dona Remedios Trinidad Highway, Baliuag, Bulacan, called the Baliuag Home Depot. With several more outlets targeted to be opened in the near future, a new Home Depot is slated to be opened in San Fernando, Pampanga next year.

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RP, Asia stocks reach record highs

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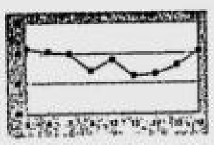

JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 45.92 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2007

Foreign investors playing key role in bull run

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET CLOSED HIGHER yesterday—its third consecutive day of record-breaking performance—following a Wall Street rally that also boosted sentiment around Asia.

Since the start of the year, the Philippine Stock Exchange index has risen by 23.4 percent, approximately half of last year's 47-percent year-on-year rise. It closed at 3,680.55, surpassing Friday's record close of 3,671.29.

The market's excitement was also fueled by the prospect of more public offers over the near-term horizon.

Speaking at the listing ceremonies of Alliance Global yesterday morning, PSE chair Jose C. Vitug said that the total value of shares

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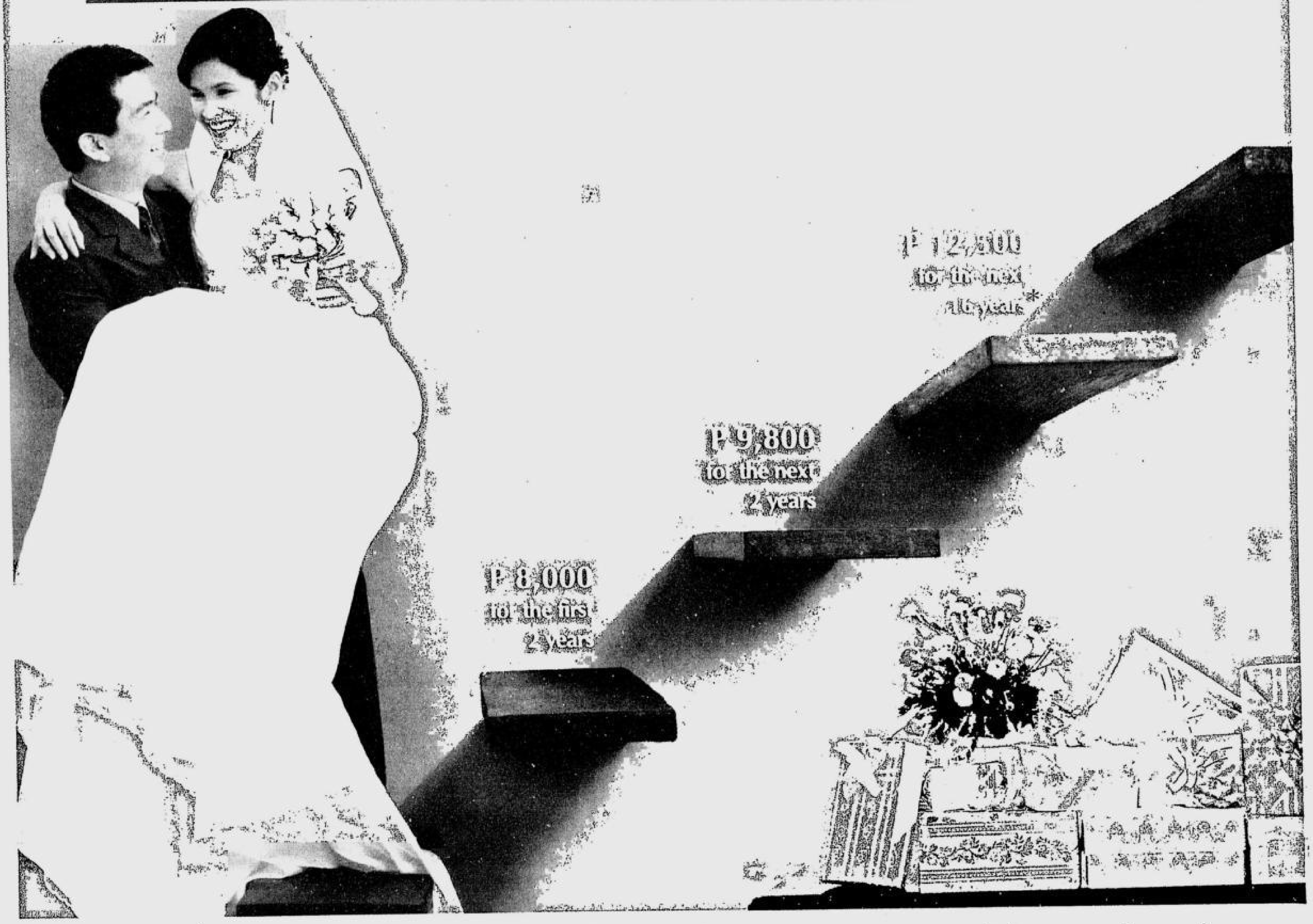

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Wall Street goes into space

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

A 90-YEAR-OLD MAN WENT FOR A check up. Everything was fine so the doctor asked him what was the secret of his good health. "I have a good relationship with God. He knows I can't see very well so when I urinate in the middle of the night, the bathroom light goes on and when I'm finished, it goes off. The next day, the doctor called the wife. "Physically, your husband is in good shape but I am worried about his mental condition. He told me that when he urinates in the middle of the night, the bathroom lights turns itself on and when he's finished, it turns itself off." "Oh my God," said his wife. "He's peeing in the refrigerator again."

An 85-year-old man married a beautiful 18-year-old girl but as her husband is so old, she decided that they should have separate rooms. After 5 minutes, the husband knocks at the door, is admitted and proceeds to make love to her expertly. He leaves but 10 minutes later, he returns and repeats his performance. The wife is astonished and sees him back to his room. Fifteen minutes later, he is back again and as strong as ever. The wife is astonished and says. I have had lots of lovers but none compare to you." The husband looked confused and said, "Have I been here before?"

I always call my wife Sweetheart, Darling or Honey. That's because I can't remember her name.

Ireland's worst air disaster occurred yesterday when a 2-seater Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery. Workers have recovered 1826 bodies so far and that number is expected to rise as rescuers continue digging into the night.

A man goes to the doctor with a strawberry growing out of his head. The doctor said, "I'll give you some cream to put on it."

* * *

Last week, the DOW was put atop the Atlantis shuttle and fired into space. As a result, the index has been rising 100 or 200 points a day with no signs of weakening. The S&P 500, the Phisix, and most indices around the world have been making new highs daily and we are in the midst of an unprecedented global boom, thanks largely to China, which appears incapable of slowing down.

Last week, I wrote about the threat of rising interest rates around the world and the following day, the yield on the US 10-year treasury note jumped from 5.10 percent to 5.33 percent. This caused emerging market bonds to fall, the yield on our 5-year bonds rose 13 basis points to 6.98 percent and all bids for the 4-year bond were rejected, otherwise there would have been a 30 basis point rise over the previous auction.

However, do not worry. Last Friday night, the FED received the Consumer Price Index data, which is a measure of how much prices rose during the month. They have developed a good trick, probably from master illusionist, David Copperfield. The actual rise in prices was 0.7 percent, equal to 8.4 percent annually and more than 4 times BERNANKE's comfort zone but the FED uses the "core inflation rate," which excludes food and fuel and this rose only 0.1 percent. It is based on the assumption that Americans do not eat and live exclusively on tap water. Also, they do not drive cars or use buses, taxis or motorcycles to get work. Based on these assumptions, everything is fine and the DOW rose another 86 points.

Greenspan, however, thinks differently and warned that interest rates are going to rise globally and there are rumors that BERNANKE is trying to have him deported. His comments sent European bonds lower for a 6th week and there have been several rate increases in Europe and the UK, probably with more to come. Peter Muller, a fixed-interest strategist at COMMERZBANK in Frankfurt said. "Bonds have come under significant pressure this week, sending yields markedly higher. What we have seen is a clear reassessment of interest-rate expectations that sent bond markets down world wide."

If bonds yield continue to rise, it will have the effect of slowing global economies by making the borrowing of money dearer and bonds could compete with equities by virtue of their attractive returns. Some members of the FED are not happy about inflation but it is unlikely that they will raise interest rates. Rising interest rates and bull markets do not go well together.

There is no sign of the Chinese economy slowing and another 0.27-percent rate hike is unlikely to make much difference. Their CSI 300 index has risen for 8 days in succession and is back to the high of May 29.

Foreign brokers still favor the Philippines and on Friday poured P1.8 billion into our market. It is no wonder that the PHISIX keeps making new highs with all this hot money coming in. In addition, there are IPOs, rights issues and introductions galore to mop up the excess liquidity. JP Morgan has raised its 1-year target

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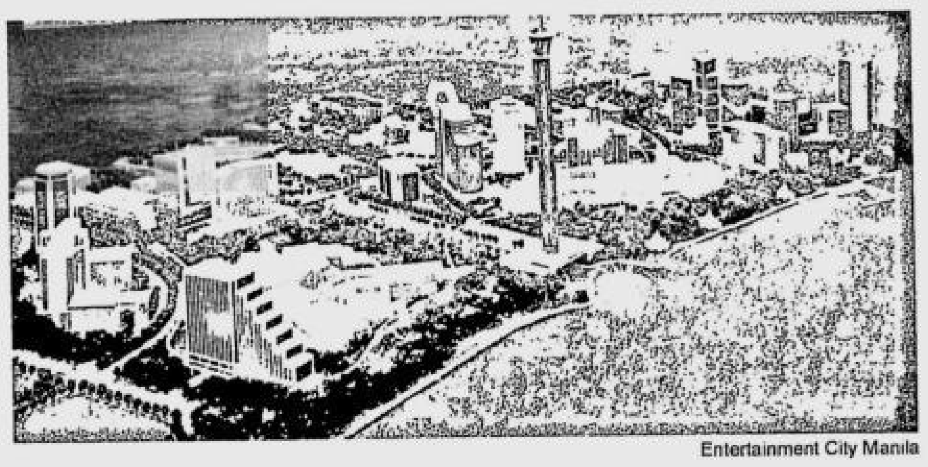

Entertainment City Manila

The **Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)** proudly announces that it will soon hold the first pre-bid conference for its proposed Entertainment City Manila project.

The **Entertainment City Manila** is a massive, multi-theme complex set to rise on prime reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard and Manila Bay in Pasay City. It will feature five-star theme hotels; amusement parks; educational and cultural complexes; shopping malls; a commercial district; a sports stadium; restaurants; convention halls; state-of-the-art theaters; gaming centers; race tracks; residential villages; a hospital district; and other facilities at par with international standards.

Publication of the terms and conditions shall be released in about three weeks.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 18, 2007)

52-WEEKS HIGH	52-WEEKS LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.75	13.75	11.5	13.75	1,477,300
71.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	71	71.5	70.5	71	954,000
73.5	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	72.5	73.5	72	72.5	3,941,600
935	630	China Banking Corp.	900	900	900	900	1,940
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.75	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.54	4,290,000
74.5	30.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	73	74.5	73	74.5	7,655,500
56.5	32	Philippine National Bank	53.5	54.5	53.5	54	298,000
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	64	63	63	2,120,400
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35	35.5	35	35	3,322,700
90	41	Security Bank Corp	84.5	84.5	83.5	83.5	170,900
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	63	61.5	61.5	182,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
3.81	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	34,000
1.46	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.08	1.18	1.08	1.14	1,421,000
9.2	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	887,000
1.04	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.85	1.04	0.85	0.99	5,860,000
40	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	40	40	40	40	100
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	220
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.75	53,340,000
2.95	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	201,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	680	685	680	685	12,810
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	1,090
1.94	1.16	Vantage Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.7	2,305,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
66.5	41	First Gen Corp.	65.5	66.5	65.5	66	860,200
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86.5	86	86.5	590,000
12.75	6.9	Manila Water Company Inc.	12	12	12	12	4,583,900
102	13.75	Manila Electric Company A	97.5	98	96.5	97	242,000
104	20.25	Manila Electric Company B	98.5	99.5	98	99	1,380,000
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	4,942,000
5.7	3.4	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5	4,804,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	25,000
1.9	0.9	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.58	1.9	1.58	1.74	4,655,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	57,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.32	2.34	952,000
8	1.9	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	5,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	8,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	56	53.5	55	1,642,700
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.72	575,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.4	2.46	2.4	2.44	520,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	67	68	67	67.5	113,200
88	68.5	San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	75.5	73.5	74.5	245,800
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	3,933,300
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.8	1.15	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	107,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	30,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	1,357,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	226,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.76	1.8	10,144,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	636,000
1.32	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.04	1.1	1,768,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.16	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	90,000
0.145	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.135	129,720,000
1.16	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.1	15,945,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.12	2.42	2.12	2.32	4,498,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	16,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	74,300,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	3,993,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	61,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.4	592,043,000
1.2	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.04	2,216,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	0.9	0.9	11,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.65	1,360,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.1	4.1	3.1	4.1	6,000
590	272.92	Ayala Corp.	580	585	570	580	872,400
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	230,000
5.4	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.1	5.3	5	5	25,527,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9	3,532,000
6.7	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	731,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	190,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	11	11	1,411,600
2.6	0.9	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. A	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	11,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	162,000
0.69	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.67	430,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	24.5	25.5	24.5	24.75	959,000
9.5	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.9	9.3	8.9	9	8,409,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	65,000
0.034	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	95,600,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.16	1.28	204,000
0.63	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	6,220,000
450	205	SM Investments Corp.	437.5	440	437.5	440	434,840
2.2	0.69	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.72	1.72	402,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.62	12,360,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.9	0.79	0.88	2,090,000
1.6	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.52	1.6	501,000
0.52	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.52	59,480,000
0.69	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	100,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	550,000
0.92	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	210,000
18.75	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	17.75	18.75	17.75	18.75	17,727,600
1.76	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.7	8,135,000
4.7	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	548,000
2.1	1.1	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp.B	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	30,000
0.72	0.25	Crown Equities Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	2,940,000
0.6	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	2,740,000
3.1	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	259,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.83	31,480,000
0.32	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	21,210,000
1.24	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.14	1.14	17,702,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	12,811,000
3.2	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	8,000,000
0.89	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	4,700,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.94	0.96	0.92	0.93	16,630,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.2	22,224,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	124,000
0.58	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.53	0.55	22,800,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.63	8,360,000
5.8	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	239,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	9,384,500
5.4	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	2,470,000
14.25	7.1	SM Prime Holdings Inc	14	14.25	14	14	14,207,800
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.81	0.83	2,860,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	4,360,000
		MEDIA					
34	13.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	91,200
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	12,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.14	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.6	6,796,000
1,445.00	885	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,420.00	1,420.00	1,410.00	1,410.00	59,900
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,710.00	2,710.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	102,490
7.9	3.15	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	743,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.16	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	3,270,000
10.25	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	15,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp	6	6.1	5.9	6	942,000
0.0525	0.0263	ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.045	0.043	0.045	41,600,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	686,000
0.0875	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.0825	0.0875	0.0825	0.0875	37,700,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.9	1.9	363,000
0.06	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.0575	449,500,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	2.65	3.65	2.65	3.55	57,818,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	506,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	46,000
32	13	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	339,600
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2.02	2	2.02	387,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	189,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	480,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	5	5	10,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.8	3.95	56,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.85	0.88	1,350,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	1.02	1.04	0.95	1	1,023,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	7,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	363,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	26	27	26	27	4,000
5.2	1.88	Macroasia Corp	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	263,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	136,500
30	9.6	Paxys Inc.	25	25.5	25	25.5	124,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	77,000,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	291,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	50,000
21.25	5.9	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	866,300
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	30,000
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.2	4.2	4	4.05	135,000
2.85	0.0602	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.36	2.55	2.36	2.55	81,121,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	17,890,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,380,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	653,200,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.037	141,900,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	97,100,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.7	12,320,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	183,500
1.36	0.29	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.16	1,639,000
1.8	0.49	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.44	3,641,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.43	0.46	19,050,000
0.025	0.0085	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	123,000,000
0.027	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	19,100,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	72,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	267,100,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

June 18, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.747217	1.000000	46.5390
Japan	Yen	0.006054	0.008102	0.3771
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476276	1.975700	91.9471
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095565	0.127895	5.9521
Switzerland	Franc	0.601672	0.805218	37.4740
Canada	Dollar	0.699641	0.936330	43.5759
Singapore	Dollar	0.485774	0.650111	30.2555
Australia	Dollar	0.627755	0.840124	39.0985
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.982217	2.652801	123.4587
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199253	0.266660	12.4101
Brunei	Dollar	0.484199	0.648004	30.1575
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000111	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.023013	0.030798	1.4333
UAE	Dirham	0.203451	0.272279	12.6716
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.338300	62.2831
Korea	Won	0.000805	0.001078	0.0502
China	Yuan**	0.097991	0.131141	6.1032
Brazil	Real	0.391213	0.523560	24.3660
Denmark	Kroner	0.134377	0.179837	8.3694
India	Rupee	0.018427	0.024661	1.1477
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216271	0.289436	13.4701
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562748	0.753125	35.0497
South Africa	Rand	0.104873	0.140351	6.5318
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022547	0.030175	1.4043

Alliance to spend ₱7B on Emperador

By Daxim L. Lucas

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP INC., the holding firm of real estate developer Andrew Tan, would devote the bulk of its follow-on public offering to boosting the output of its distilling unit, company officials said.

Alliance Global president Kingson U. Sian said in a briefing that the company would spend P7 billion on increasing the production capacity of Emperador Distillers Inc. to 25 million cases by next year.

At present, the maker of the world's largest selling brandy by volume produces 15 million cases annually. This will be raised to 18 million cases by yearend, he said.

Each case of Emperador brandy holds 12 bottles of 750 milliliters each. The company's raised P18 billion from the largest follow-on offering in the history of the local bourse. Its shares were listed yesterday, ending the trading session at P6.40 apiece, from an offer price of P5.759 a share.

Emperador Distillers president Winston Co justified the investment in additional capacity, saying the consumption of alcoholic beverages—especially the more expensive types—closely tracked the performance of the economy.

"We expect brandy sales to grow significantly over the next five to six years," he said, explaining the change in consumption patterns that comes with rising affluence.

He said that brandy was the only segment of the wines and spirits market that is growing, with gin and rum posting the sharpest sales declines.

Credit card receivables up 22% in Q1

By Michelle V. Remo

BANKS' CREDIT CARD RECEIVABLES JUMPED over 20 percent in the first quarter from a year-ago, boosted by the rise in consumer spending that also contributed to the economy's record growth.

Credit card receivables by universal, commercial and thrift banks hit P96.4 billion from January to March, rising by 22.3 percent from the P78.8 billion recorded in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

When compared to the fourth quarter last year, however, credit card receivables in the first quarter marked a 3.2-percent drop from P99.6 billion.

The BSP said the P96.4 billion in credit card receivables in the first quarter represented 5 percent of the banks' total loan portfolio.

Past-due credit card receivables stood at P13.7 billion, the BSP said, equivalent to 14 percent of the banks' total credit card receivables for the period and 8.9 percent of the banks' total nonperforming loans.

The government earlier reported that the Philippine economy, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), grew by 6.9 percent in the first quarter from a year-ago.

This marked the economy's strongest performance in 17 years.

The robust growth, which economic managers of the Arroyo administration said had placed the Philippines at par with other emerging economies in Southeast Asia, was attributed not only to increase in exports earnings and government spending, but also to rise in consumption.

Personal consumption has been one of the consistent growth drivers of the economy. Economic managers said the rise in consumption was partly due to the increase in remittances sent home by overseas Filipino workers and higher investment income, such as from increase in stock market prices.

But while the increase in personal consumption is credited for helping boost economic growth, banks have been also asked to expand their lending activities catering to corporate clients.

Economic managers said banks should lend more to businesses to support investment plans, which would provide additional jobs and help reduce poverty.

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THE GURUS
Professor Danilo A. Antonio, is a member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) Program. Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.

Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ed.D, is the Bank of America Foundation Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Guevarra Enterprises (Guevent), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (post-mix distributor of Pepsi-Cola). Prof. Ferreria, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt. & Dev't. Foundation, Filipino Car Foundation, and Channel Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and AIM's Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Club Noah Group of Companies operating the world-famous Club Noah-Isabelle in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Seair, an airline serving tourist destinations in Palawan, Surigao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Makati.

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Resign on the wall

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

JUST BETWEEN US GIRLS, there seems to be a complete falling out between Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

Word is going round in the BIR that Teves has a standing "dare" to Buñag that they both submit their resignation letters to Gloriaetta.

And then they just leave the decision up to the President.

To think that the two were even classmates in high school at the Ateneo de Manila.

But now everybody at the DOF and the BIR knows that Teves did not like Buñag from the beginning. Buñag, for example, served only as BIR OIC for almost six months.

Well, Teves did not want to give Gloriaetta the endorsement for Buñag.

Recently, the obvious rift between the two became public, as "text" messages circulated at the BIR that Teves wanted Buñag to resign by the end of this month.

At the same time, our BIR sources revealed that Buñag had a one-on-one meeting with Gloriaetta.

Buñag supposedly confessed to her that he could no longer work with Teves.

To Gloriaetta, therefore, it is now a choice between Teves and Buñag.

Of course nobody knows what the President will do as yet.

But the sign on the wall of the BIR and DOF is that Gloriaetta is leaning more toward retaining Teves.

Apparently to appease Buñag, plus the business community and the Catholic Church leaders who are supporting the BIR chief, Gloriaetta offered Buñag plum ambassadorial positions.

I heard it was either Geneva (Switzerland) or the Hague (the Netherlands).

But I suppose that, if you are Gloriaetta, the question is what decision is good for business confidence? You know—who to keep between Teves and Buñag?

For one, Buñag holds the best record of any BIR commissioner.

During Buñag's first full year as commissioner, the BIR already achieved a 22 percent increase in collection—or more than P100-billion increase.

(The last time the BIR accomplished such a feat was in 1997—which was nevertheless already the sixth year of then BIR chief Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.)

As for Teves, I am still searching high and low for examples of his brilliant moves as finance secretary.

***

Word from the Knights of Columbus is that Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo is now requiring all members of the organization, who are also members of its mutual benefit fund, to secure "agent" licenses from the Insurance Commission.

At the same time, the Bangko Sentral is requiring Anchor Savings Bank to report its cash position every day.

Those two developments seem to the offshoot of our report on the Enron-type booking-cooking income "padding" at Anchor Savings during the Escobillo as its president.

The religious organization Knights of Columbus owns Anchor Savings.

Our sources in the organization said Escobillo suspects that the organization was the source of our information on the fraud cases in the bank during her time.

It is therefore likely that the Insurance Commission has a different agenda when it imposed the condition on the Knights of Columbus members.

The organization's members were never—EVER—required to get licenses from the Insurance Commission. NOT EVER!

Anyway, it probably did not occur to Escobillo that she herself opened the information to the public.

Well, she filed a case against Anchor Savings, demanding her retirement pay.

Part of the court records were the detailed answers of Anchor Savings in the Escobillo case.

In effect, the bank said that Escobillo did not deserve the retirement pay because of all the allegedly fraudulent transactions in the bank during her term as its president.

Escobillo denied knowledge of the transactions.

Still, in one allegedly fictitious sale of an acquired asset of the bank, involving a property worth P12 million in Cagayan de Oro, Escobillo herself made the presentation to the board.

At that time, during the fourth quarter of 2004, Escobillo asked the bank's board to advance the "performance bonus," which she was entitled to as president of the bank.

But out of the projected income of P20 million for the year, the bank was only doing P8 million.

To justify the advanced bonus, Escobillo presented to the board the sale of the property, complete with receipts for the down payment. The board thus approved her proposal for advanced bonus.

It turned out the sale was a hoax.

Still, Escobillo reported that the bank was able to achieve the P20-million income target. How? She told the board it was due to a "surge" in collection during the last month.

Subsequent audit showed that the bank actually recorded a loss of P2.8 million under Escobillo last year, although she already got her performance bonus.

Oh, by the way, I got calls asking what was the bank's auditing firm at that time. Well, for the sake of our action stars in the Senate, it was the Punongbayan Araullo auditing firm.

***

This cute administration has launched a nationwide campaign called "Iwas Bird Flu," aimed at raising public awareness of the virus that so far only threatens fowl.

But scientists now believe that the virus can mutate anytime to threaten human beings, too. As if to highlight the seriousness of the threat of a "bird flu" worldwide pandemic, funding for the campaign even came from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The key areas of the campaign include Agusan del Norte (Lake Mainit), Agusan del Sur, Cagayan (Aparri), Cebu (Olango Island), Cotabato (Ligwasan Marsh in Kabacan), General Santos City, Ilocos Norte (Pagudpod), Isabela (Magat Dam) Mindoro (Naujan Lake) Negros Occidental (Himamaylan), Palawan, Quezon, Pampanga (Candaba swamp) and Panay Island (Roxas and Capiz).

Jollibee buys out partner in Chinese food chain

By Daxim L. Lucas

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP, THE country's largest food service company, had bought out its Chinese partner in the Yonghe King restaurant chain in the People's Republic of China.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Jollibee chief finance officer Ysmael V. Baysa said Jollibee had acquired the 15-percent stake of Belmont Enterprises Ventures Limited for $6 million in cash from Academy Resources Ltd.

Jollibee chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong added that the company's acquisition of an additional stake in the Yonghe King chain reflected its "optimism and confidence in the significant future growth and rise in economic value of... the business."

Sales of Yonghe King grew by 20.1 percent in 2006 from its previous level in 2005. It opened 12 stores last year and plans to open another 12 to 15 outlets this year.

With the acquisition of the 15-percent share of Belmont Enterprises Ventures Limited, Jollibee has now achieved 100-percent ownership of all its subsidiaries.

The company bought all the remaining shares of Green Foods Franchising Inc. in the Greenwich Pizza business in January 2006, and all the shares of its partner Delifrance Asia Ltd. in the Delifrance franchise in the Philippines in September 2006.

As of May 31, 2007, it operated 1,383 stores in the country: 579 Jollibee outlets, 366 Chowking outlets, 237 Greenwich outlets, 165 Red Ribbon and 36 Delifrance outlets.

The company also has 171 stores in foreign shores: 102 Yonghe King outlets in China; 12 Jollibee, 19 Red Ribbon and 12 Chowking outlets in the United States; 6 Chowking outlets in Dubai; 4 Chowking outlets in Indonesia; 15 Jollibee outlets in other countries and one CST in China—for a total of 1,554 stores worldwide.

Auto firms target mass market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL AUTOMOTIVE FIRMS are cooking up a campaign to provide the lower middle-income bracket with vehicles following the launch of the so-named Philippine Utility Vehicle last week.

"The idea is for members to come out with their own vehicles that could cater to the 'CC+' income segment and especially owners small and medium enterprises," said Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

She explained that the planned campaign was still on the conceptual level, but that Campi was in talks with government agencies as well as "third parties" with the aim of establishing financing means that would support the plan.

Lee said groups involved in developing the campaign included the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, which last week unveiled the prototype PhUV—aimed at weaning a segment of the market away from used vehicles by providing them with brand new vehicles at more affordable prices.

The PhUV is priced between P350,000 and P450,000 and uses only brand new locally-made parts.

Also yesterday, Campi announced it was holding in August the 1st Philippine International Motor Show at a time when the local industry is "poised to hurdle" the 100,000-unit mark by yearend.

The 1st PIMS is slated on Aug. 9-12 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, and would feature exhibits mainly from 12 brands, including Audi, Chevrolet, GM, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu and Mitsubishi.

Sta. Lucia to list through back door

PROPERTY FIRM STA. LUCIA Realty and Development Inc. yesterday unveiled a backdoor listing plan that would see it take the place of Zipporah Realty Realty Holdings Inc. on the bourse.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Zipporah Realty said its board of directors had amended its articles of incorporation to accommodate the entry of Sta. Lucia's assets into its corporate vehicle.

The listed firm's authorized capital stock will be increased from P2 billion to a maximum of P21 billion.

The deal would be consummated with the transfer of Sta. Lucia's property assets into the books of the listed firm in exchange for P15 billion worth of capital.

The listed firm's primary purpose in its incorporation papers were also amended to expand its powers in the property development field.

The new listed vehicle would be called Sta. Lucia Land Inc.

"In order prevent market speculation arising from actions taken at the special [board] meeting [lastJune 15, 2007], the registrant's board passed a resolution requesting the PSE to temporarily suspend trading of the registrant's securities effective Monday, June 18, 2007," said Zipporah Realty's assistant corporate secretary Pancho G. Umali.

The request was granted by the PSE, suspending trading of the company's shares until more information about the deal is released to the public.

According to the Zipporah Realty, its board had also agreed to move its corporate headquarters from Makati City to Cainta, Rizal, close to the property developments owned by Sta. Lucia.

Daxim L. Lucas

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO THE TAKE OVER BY SBMA OF ITS LEASED PREMISES DESPITE WRIT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION DATED JUNE 12, 2007 ISSUED BY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 74 OLONGAPO CITY.

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SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

(PDI – June 19, 2007)

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Interested parties may inspect the scrap materials on the following dates:

Location	Date and Time of Inspection
BSP units at BDO Plaza, Plaza de Roxas, Makati City	22 June 2007 at 9.30 A.M.
BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila	26 June 2007 at 9.30 A.M.
PICC, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	26 June 2007 at 10:30 A.M.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer, Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 105, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-8161.

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(PDI – June 19, 2007)

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San Isidro Parish	Hondagua, Lopez, Quezon
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San Diego De Alcala Cathedral Parish	Gumaca, Quezon
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ROSENDO BAYLON	Chapel C	June 19, 2007 11:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory

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5-month BOP surplus up 40% to $2.36B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SURPLUS IN THE COUNTRY'S BALance of payments (BOP) position rose as of end-May with the continued surge in foreign currency inflows, such as those being channeled in the form of portfolio investments and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the country's BOP for January to May hit a surplus of $2.365 billion, rising by 40 percent from the $1.7 billion recorded in the period covering January to April this year.

The latest January to May BOP surplus was also 31-percent higher than the $1.81 billion recorded in the same five-month period last year.

For transactions covering the month of May alone, the BOP stood at a surplus of $665 million, jumping by 136 percent from the $282 million recorded in April. The May BOP also marked a turnaround from the $36-million deficit recorded in the same month last year.

The BSP earlier set its official BOP target as of the end of this year at a surplus of $1.6 billion. But latest estimates said a surplus of more than $2 billion was likely.

BOP, which is the record of a country's transactions with the rest of the world, is the difference between the amount of foreign currencies flowing in and out of the country.

A surplus in the BOP, which is also an indicator used to measure a country's vulnerability to external shocks and currency speculation, means there are more foreign currency inflows than outflows.

"The January to May BOP surplus was a result of the double-digit growth in overseas Filipino remittances, sustained investment inflows, growing exports, frontloading of NG (national government) borrowings and investment income of the BSP," said Amando Tetangco Jr., central bank governor.

The government's economic managers attribute the rise in investments, including those intended for the stock market, to the positive sentiment of investors on the Philippines amid its improving macroeconomic fundamentals.

The Arroyo administration has said the 6.9-percent economic growth in the first quarter—the highest in 17 years—was partly due to increase in business activity.

According to the National Statistics Office, the country's exports grew by 8.1 percent to $16.296 billion from that of the same period last year, with the continued rise in global demand for electronics, the country's major export earner.

The government expects exports growth to hit 11 percent for the entire 2007 despite projections of a slowdown in the economy of the United States, the biggest export market for Philippine-made goods. The projection is anchored on forecast that demand for consumer electronics, like cellular phones and laptop computers, would remain strong.

Also, OFW remittances hit $4.7 billion in January to April, up 26.1 percent from the same period last year.

In '08, GOCCs' budget target set at ₱35B

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET A COLLECTIVE target for the 14 major government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), expecting the firms to post a combined budget surplus of P35 billion next year.

This would be a marked turnaround from the expected P16-billion deficit for this year.

By setting the target for 2008, the government expects to instill fiscal discipline among state-owned firms.

The budget surplus target for 2008 is said to be a result of the P340.62 billion worth of combined expenditures and P375.7 billion worth of revenue expected to be generated next year.

Of the total expenditures, capital expenditures should account for P47.12 billion.

The financial performance of the 14 GOCCs are monitored by the national government through the Department of Finance. The state firms greatly influence the turnout of the consolidated public sector fiscal position.

The CPSFP is the combined deficits and surpluses of GOCCs, government financial institutions, social security institutions, the national government and local government units.

While the government has already taken steps to put its fiscal house in order, economic managers have pointed out the importance of making fiscal discipline a practice among state-owned firms and other government entities.

The 14 monitored GOCCs are the National Power Corp., the Philippine National Oil Co., the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, the National Irrigation Authority, the National Development Co., the Light Rail Transit Authority, the Local Water Utilities Administration, the National Electrification Administration, the National Housing Authority, the Philippine National Railways, the Philippine Ports Authority, National Food Authority, Philippine Economic Zone Authority and Home Guaranty Corp.

Michelle V. Remo

Japanese info tech firm to locate in Subic

By Riza T. Olchondra

TRIPLE WIN INNOVATION CENTER (TIC), an information technology outsourcing company based in Japan, has committed an investment of $640,000 to set up a facility at the Subic Bay Freeport, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said on Monday.

TIC is a company that caters to major automobile and appliance companies for software design and development. It will be setting up the TIC Philippines Software Technology Inc., which will bring into the country state-of-the-art Japanese technology.

The local unit will initially hire 15 employees for its preliminary operations at the Boton Light and Science Park. More employees will be hired as required.

SBMA administrator Armand C. Arreza said the Subic Bay Freeport's board of directors have approved the establishment of TIC Philippines' operations.

Arreza said that the entry of TIC will "immensely contribute" to the Freeport's growth as an IT hub.

He said that today's concept of business calls for speed and reliability, which is enabled by modern technology, such as those developed by TIC and other software firms.

Aside from TIC, there are three companies in the Subic Bay Freeport that are engaged in software development: Subic Software Solutions Inc., IDESS Interactive Technology Inc., and Hamdorf Photography and Design Inc.

PhilRice spreads gospel of rice tech online

By Amy R. Remo

AS MORE FILIPINO FARMERS start to ride on the technology wave, the Philippine Rice Research Institute will soon offer online training courses on rice production technologies.

Leocadio S. Sebastian, PhilRice executive director, said in a statement that the online course aims to provide a learning option for clients—farmers, cooperatives and other various farmers' groups—who use information and communication technology tools such as the Internet.

"We understand that some of our clients lack the resources to attend our onsite training programs," Sebastian said. "With this e-learning project, we hope to facilitate learning at a minimal cost despite geographical disparity."

Through the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (Opapa) PhilRice would use Moodle as the learning management system platform for its online training program.

Moodle is an open source application that enables developers to customize the site to fit the learners' needs.

To use this, one needs to have an Adobe Flash Player, Quicktime Player or Adobe Reader installed in his or her computer to view course contents.

Since it is an open source, PhilRice does not need to pay an annual license fee to run the software.

Opapa is a network of government institutions providing education, training, extension and communication in agriculture using ICT.

A prototype of the system was presented in April at the PhilRice Central Experiment Station, where the Opapa Advisory Council recommended that the system be used as the common e-learning platform not only for rice but also for other crops.

As a work in progress, the e-learning platform can be accessed at http://moodle.openacademy.ph.

Two courses—the "Minus One Element Technique (MOET)" and "How to make the Maligaya Rice Hull Stove"—are initially uploaded for pretesting purposes.

To access these courses, one needs to create an account. Notification will be sent through e-mail to authenticate the user account. After authentication, one can enroll in any course available.

Earlier, the Department of Agriculture announced plans to put up electronic kiosks around the country to help farmers widen their market access using the Internet.

Review of foreign ownership rule for power projects urged

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS pushing for the review of the constitutional provision that prevents 100-percent foreign-owned firms from engaging in the development of "potential sources of energy."

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said foreign cash and expertise were important to the development of the country's energy sector, particularly for projects as capital intensive as geothermal.

He added that it would be better if geothermal resources could be classified as mineral resources, as this would allow the entry of foreign firms, such as those in the upstream oil and gas sector.

"In the case of oil and gas service contracts, we allow technical and financial assistance from 100-percent foreign-owned and controlled companies, for as long as we follow the 60-40 arrangement in the sharing of royalties from oil and gas exploration," he explained.

"In the case of PNOC (Energy Development Corp.), only 60-percent Filipino-owned corporations can help undertake projects for it," Lotilla said. "But if we consider geothermal as mineral, then we can open (the sector) up to 100-percent foreign-owned companies."

He said the push to classify geothermal as mineral was a DOE initiative to better develop and exploit this resource. Other ways to overcome the prohibition on foreign ownership of geothermal projects was to seek a Department of Justice opinion on it and to have a "test case."

"But this will take time, and we don't want to put in any element of instability into the operations of PNOC-EDC," he said. "We cannot subject this to any uncertainty. Regardless of whoever issues (the opinion), there will be a potential for legal challenge. Instability—in the sense that a DOJ opinion can be overturned by the Supreme Court at some point—will not be very good for investors."

RP, Asia stocks hit record highs

From page B1

to be listed this year could hit P80 billion, given the present pipeline of applications with the bourse.

"You see, we have pending before us IPO and follow-on offering applications worth over P40 billion," he said. "That's on top of the P34.8 billion amount of equity raised just for the first five months of the year. Assuming we approve all the pending applications this year, then we get close to P80-billion total equity."

"While the market may now be toppish, it's hard to say whether we're now getting into a consolidation mode," said Unicapital Securities' research head Ron Rodrigo.

Foreign investor demand seems to have played a key role in lifting the market 24 percent this year.

The exchange said yesterday that net foreign buying of Philippine stocks rose 86.2 percent in the first five months of the year compared to the same period a year ago.

"The buildup of foreign investments is fueling the market's record-breaking run," said Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim.

In yesterday's trading, Alliance Global ended unchanged from its previous close at P6.40, but its shares accounted for 42 percent of the day's trading.

Gainers led decliners 71 to 49, while 52 stocks were unchanged.

Japan's Nikkei average also climbed nearly 1 percent to its highest close in nearly four months, while the MSCI index of Asian stocks outside of Japan advanced more than 1.5 percent in afternoon trade, after scaling a record high.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, South Korea's KOSPI, Singapore's Straits Times Index all climbed more than 1 percent to record highs. Indonesian stocks also reached all-time peaks.

US data on Friday, which showed consumer prices, excluding volatile food and energy items, rose just 0.1 percent in May, half the pace expected by Wall Street, had helped soothe inflation fears in Asia's top export market.

"Global markets are going crazy, but there's a reason for that since people believe we are in the middle of a Goldilocks scenario: Tame inflation and good growth," said Kim Hyun-tae, a fund manager at Landmark Investment Management in Seoul.

In Australia, the major miners including BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto advanced more than 2 percent each, finding further support from strong base metals prices.

Mainland Chinese shares added 2.6 percent in late trade and were on track to retest record highs as worries about tighter monetary policy eased after the government refrained from taking steps at the weekend to cool the economy.

Elsewhere, Taiwan's stock market was closed for a public holiday and will reopen on Wednesday.

Reuters

Mr. Bearbull

From page B2

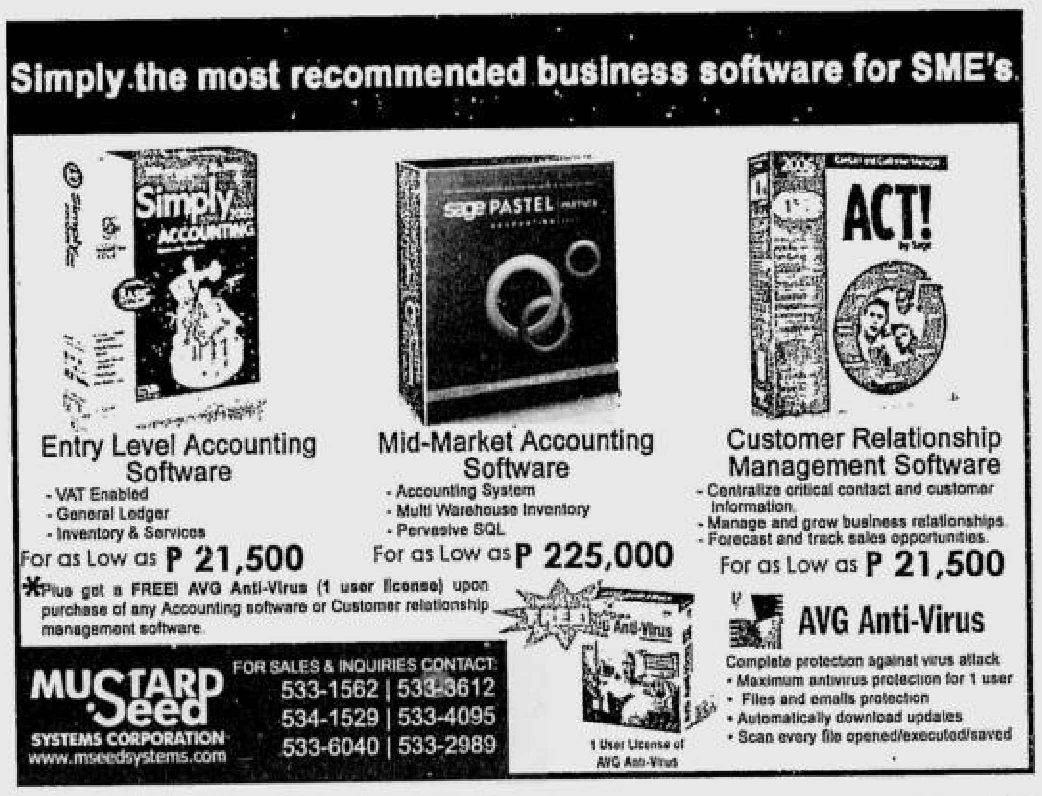
on the PHISIX from 3,500 to 4,400—a huge upgrade. Net foreign buying yesterday was P 10.9 billion due to huge block sales of AGI.

However, there are clouds forming in an otherwise blue sky. Finance Secretary TEVES is worried about "fiscal slippage" and the BIR missed it collection goal by 12 percent, causing the government to be 18.5-percent below its target. President Arroyo is obviously concerned and a cabinet revamp is on its way. If she replaces people who have failed to live up to expectations with potentially better candidates, this can only be a step in the right direction. She will have to contend with a hostile Senate but hopefully they will not oppose moves to strengthen the economy.

The government MUST sell its stakes in SMC, MER, PNB and some PNOC power stations this year while the market is buoyant but PNOC has just announced that profits are 37 percent lower than a year ago. If foreign brokers continue to subscribe to all our IPOs, as they did with AGI, all will be well.

Exports fell unexpectedly by 5 percent due to the strong peso, despite booming sales to China and Hong Kong. Sales to China rose 45 percent while sales to Hong Kong doubled. Growth in China is expected to continue but Governor Tetangco said that overseas sales account for 40 percent of GDP so weaker sales are a concern.

Although the PHISIX has risen to another record high, the momentum index is falling and I believe that a correction is imminent. However, this cannot happen as long as foreign buying continues at this frenzied pace. *mrbearbull @hotmail.com*



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ISABELA – 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Victoria, Alicia, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 6627103/6627983/6627810
Fax. No. (078) 6627103/6627917

The Isabela – 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO – 1) wishes to invite interested suppliers for Public Bidding for the supply and delivery of the following:

a) Electronic KWHM, 10 (30) AMP, single phase
b) Steel Pole, 30 footer; 3.0mm plate thickness
c) XLPE insulated, MV power cable, copper taped shield, PVC jacket, 100 mm2, 15kv
d) Terminal lug, single hole, long barrel, 4/0
e) Termination kit, outdoor, cold shrink, 15 kv

Interested parties may secure bid documents and checklist of qualification requirements at the office of the PBAC Secretary at Institutional Services Manager's office and look for Ms. Luzviminda D. Torres or call cel no. 09189429720 or call Engr. Romeo M. Villacampa at Cel No. 09189226973.

Schedule of bidding activities shall be as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE/TIME
Issuance of bid documents/checklist of qualification requirements.	June 19 - July 03, 2007 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Qualification conference	July 04, 2007 / 9:00 AM
Submission/Opening of Bids	July 04, 2007 / 1:00 AM

Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following: (To be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

1. Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of two thousand pesos only (PhP2,000.00) in the form of cash.
2. Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.
3. Audited Financial Statement (Balance sheet and Income Statement) duly filed/stamped received by BIR.
4. If represented by an agent of the firm, it must have a letter of Authorization from the President/Manager or Owner.
5. Posting/depositing the required BID BOND.

The ISELCO - 1 reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any defect thereon and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative (ISELCO - 1). The ISELCO - 1 likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) Engr. **ROMEO M. VILLACAMPA**
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) Engr. **VIRGILIO L. MONTANO**
General Manager

(PDI – June 17, 18 & 19, 2007)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614-Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2007 Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php2,250,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF A BUDGET AND PLANNING SYSTEM FOR THE COMPANY** (herein referred to as the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF A BUDGET AND PLANNING SYSTEM FOR FIVE (5) CONCURRENT USERS OF THE COMPANY.**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Contracts and Procurement Section (c/o Ms. J. C. Fabian) starting June 14, 2007 at the PNOC EC Head Office located at Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 25, 2007, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Head Office Conference Room.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in two (2) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M. on July 9, 2007**. The bids, including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

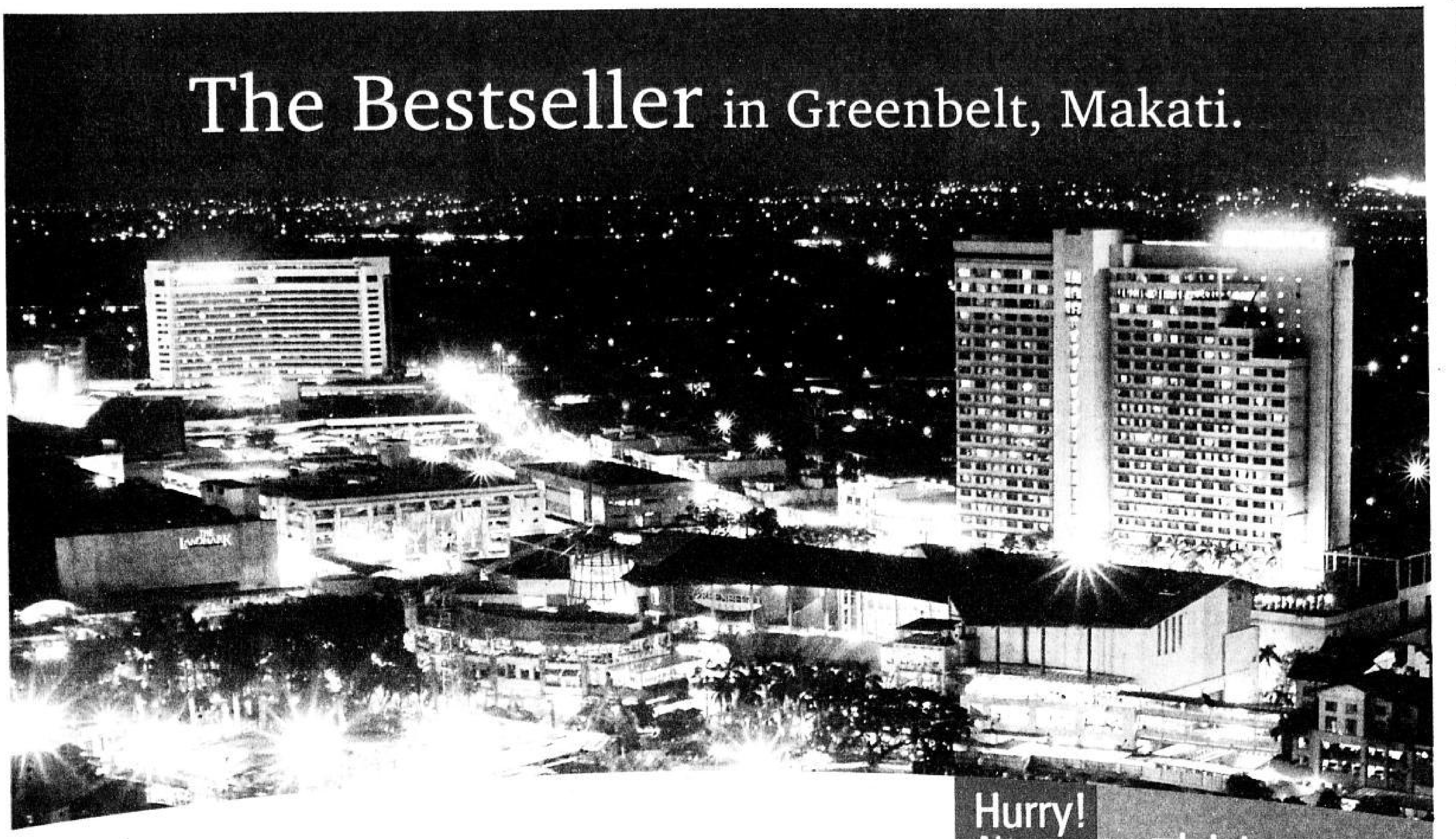
PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at **www.pnoc-ec.com.ph**, in the DBM website at **www.procurementservice.net**, and in the June 16 and 19 issues of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

(Sgd.) The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 16 & 19, 2007)

The Bestseller in Greenbelt, Makati.



Hurry!
Now
50%
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GREENBELT CHANCELLOR

The Art of Living Extraordinarily Well

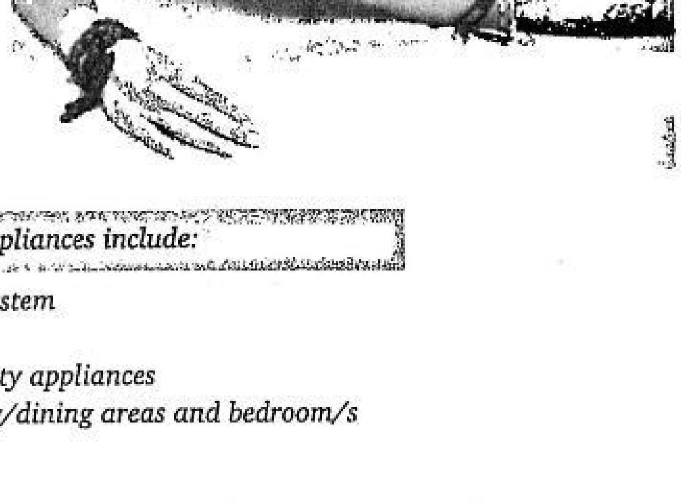
People are snapping up our condo units obviously because of their incomparable location. Here are other equally compelling reasons.

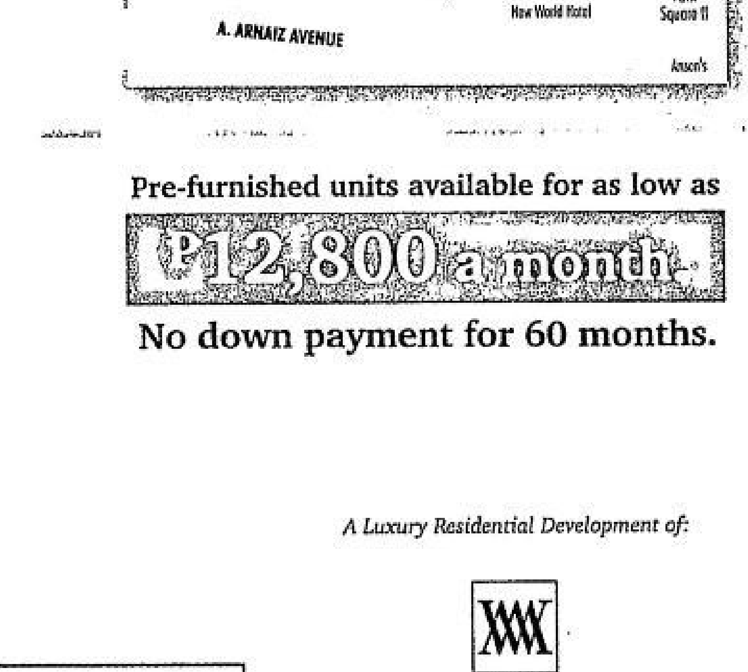
Introduced just two months ago, Greenbelt Chancellor has only half of its units still open to takers. Obviously, people love the fact that its fab location close to the exciting Greenbelt block puts them literally steps away from a whole lot of important places. From the most prestigious offices to the snazziest shops and restaurants. From the latest entertainment houses to the most modern medical centers and the finest schools.

Greenbelt Chancellor is indeed the perfect choice for those looking for a condo in an unbeatable location. But there are other very good reasons why it's become the biggest buzz among property hunters. For one, its executive studios to three-bedroom suites come pre-furnished with first-rate furniture and home appliances. Then, too, wide windows bring you stunning views of Greenbelt and the city. And you can relax in private at the seventh-level play deck, with its lap pool, fitness center, spa and lush garden.

Best of all, Greenbelt Chancellor gives you more bang for the buck with the friendliest price/payment package in town.

Greenbelt Chancellor. An extraordinarily pampering lifestyle you can call your very own.

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Join our **Open House** on **June 20, 22** and **23,** from **9 am** to **10 pm,**
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DAYS of infinite pleasure in Boracay /C2

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ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Simple solutions to challenging issues

SOMETIMES, THE MOST difficult questions have the simplest answers.

Here are simple ways to cope with challenging issues related to health and well-being.

Is there an easy way to observe the "five a day" healthy food guideline?

The Department of Health and medical experts agree that the more vegetable you consume, the healthier your diet plan is. Why?

Vegetables contain enzymes that your body needs in order to stay nutritionally healthy. Though based on research, many people do not exactly know what "portions" of veggies and fruits means.

Remember this (according to "The Food Bible" by Judith Wills):

1. Five portions should total 400 g. (14 oz) of edible veggie/fruit. Example: A handful of dried fruit/vegetable, a portion (glassful) of fruit or vegetable juice in the morning; one bowl of salad at lunchtime, and a serving of vegetable with your chicken/fish in the evening.
2. Go for variety. Mix up your choices from day to day. Example, alternate your fruits daily. Try to eat a different kind of fruit/veggie each day.
3. While the food could be cooked, it is better to eat it raw/fresh. Do try to eat a raw salad daily.
4. Potatoes/sweet potatoes are considered carbohydrate because they are starchy.
5. Beans, lentils, pulses are considered protein/carbohydrate.
6. The best juice is freshly squeezed. So, avoid canned juices. Watch out for their high-sugar content. And, if any sugar substitutes are used, note that some artificial sweeteners may be more damaging to your health. While juices are permissible, it is best to eat the actual fruit or vegetable as most of the fiber is lost when it is transformed into juice.
7. Composite fruits are okay, like apple pie, squash soup, coleslaw (easy on the mayonnaise). Note: A slice or two of tomato/lettuce in a sandwich is insignificant. To make it easier for you, remember that a portion is like a handful. Open your hand and look at your palm. This should be easy to visualize.

What is the most inexpensive moisturizer one can use considering budget constraints?

The easiest and most affordable way to moisturize your face is to apply virgin coconut oil (VCO), believe it or not. Since VCO is abundant in the Philippines, why not use it as part of your daily beauty regimen? Countless information about the benefits of VCO outweigh the reservations some people have about this humble vegetable oil.

In fact, it can also serve as a gentle makeup remover. Try it and get converted. All you need to do is to apply two drops on the forehead, three drops on each cheeks and two drops per eye area.

Rub gently and within five minutes makeup is gone! You may rinse with your regular cleansing lotion. Then, add one drop each per area of the face (avoiding the nose) and spread evenly. It works like magic!

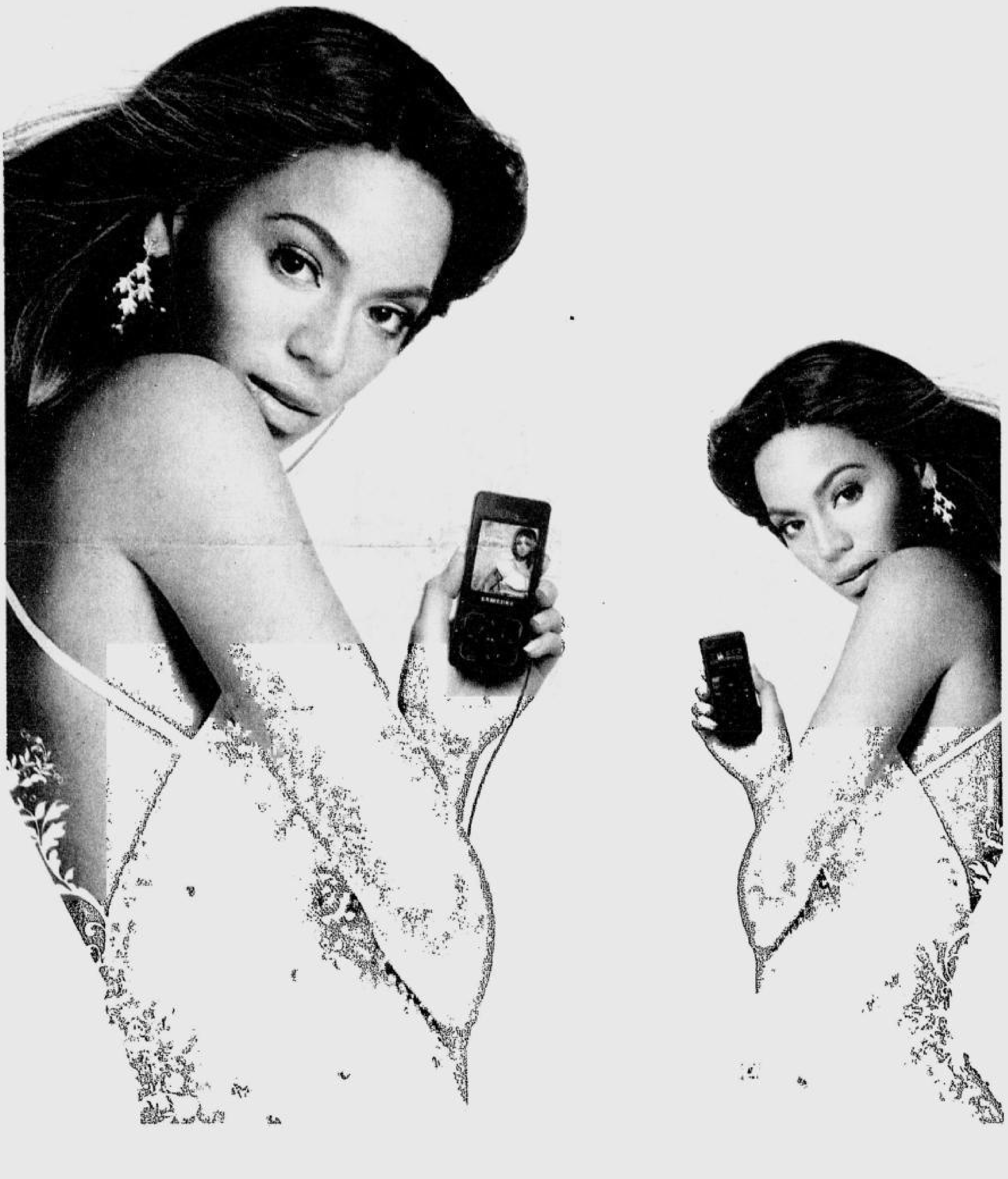
What is the best way to de-stress?

Find or do something that makes you happiest. Here are a few of your favorite things: sleep/nap, go to spa/salon, listen to music, watch a funny movie, have tea/coffee with friends, go on a vacation—either alone or with your loved one, meditate, or attend a dance class, spiritual retreat/renewal, etc.

What is the best power breakfast?

Studies have shown that most people skip breakfast. Here are a few suggestions: cereal (oatmeal, whole-grain flakes), fruit juice, one egg, toast, bowl of fruits, milk/coffee/chocolate, rice/sardines/dried fish, beans, lean ham/bacon.

Love and light!



The Ultra music

F300

imagine flipping from your music, to your life, and back again.

Imagine strolling down the street on your way to a meeting - only you're not just strolling, you're rolling. *Irreplaceable* is playing in your ear and it's impossible not to groove at least a little. Suddenly, it's a call that lifts you even more - your meeting's cancelled. So, back to Beyoncé, and a day with no meetings. With the dual faced Samsung Ultra Music, it's not that hard to imagine. *ph.samsungmobile.com*

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TONETTE Ramos of IBM and *famille*, with Giselle Sia of Smart Infinity

SMART GALS: Mau Palomares, Joan Villaroman, Cheese Ledesma, and Julie Carceller

PARTNERS: Europcar Phils.
Bautista, and Europcar's Do
Ken Chew and Fay Jimenez.

A fabulous and exclusive Boracay g

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BORACAY IS STILL THE PLACE TO BE, packed with people from all over the country and the world, *palanggas*.

No wonder, Smart Infinity came out with a fab offer. You can enjoy more of life's best with its exclusive Smart Infinity Boracay Package.

Imagine, dahlings, during your vacation you can take a free sunset cruise around Boracay aboard the country's largest trimaran yacht, the M/S Vianelle, no less.

Enjoy Boracay's famous picture-perfect sunset on deck as you nibble on delectable caviar canapés, superb sushi and sashimi and other premium hors d'oeuvres and sip Möet & Chandon champagne, compliments of the Nami Resort and served by your very own Nami butler, no less, dahlings.

Hey, if that ain't style, what is, *di bala?*

"(With) Smart Infinity Plan 8000 or Plan 5000, you get a free Motorola V3XX and a free three-day/two-night vacation at Boracay. Package includes round-trip tickets for two via SeAir, private land/boat transfers. Plan 8000 subscribers are automatically booked at Nami Resort and Plan 5000 subscribers at Microtel Inn & Suites. All accommodations come with free breakfast," explained Smart's cyber smart hotshot gal **Julie Carcellier**.

Naturellement, there are still so many happenings on the island. I will need a whole page to mention them all.

All Infinity subscribers are given an Infinity Privilege Card that can be used for exclusive privileges at Nami Resort and Baguio Country Club. Plan 8000 subscribers will get free cell phone insurance.

Hey, *palanggas*, call Smart Infinity at tel. 8488889 or 8488806 or visit the Smart Wireless center nearest you for more info.

Flip-flops frenzy

An awesome total of 5,000 pairs, *palanggas*—that's how many pairs of customized Havaianas were made during the super-fun "Make Your Own Havaianas" (MYOH) event, which ran for five days.

Many brought home one or more pairs of these renowned flip-flops, would you believe?

According to **Anne Gonzalez** of Havaianas, "MYOH is the perfect opportunity for fans to create flip-flops that are uniquely their own, but still carry the same signature comfort and style of Havaianas."

This was how it worked, *palanggas*. People came in, looked at the 14 differently colored straps and soles that meant 196 possibilities. They then decided what combination they fancied and picked from a dozen varieties of pins and Swarovski crystals.

After deciding what look was perfect for them, the flip-flops were assembled by the helpful Havaianas people at the North Court of the Powerplant mall, *palanggas*.

The colorful Havaianas flip-flops can be

HENRY Cu Te and wife Myreene Te

INFINITY subscriber Jim Boyd of Brinckerhoff Philippines, Inc. and wife Linda, president of British Women's Association

havaianas
havaianas
havaianas
havaianas
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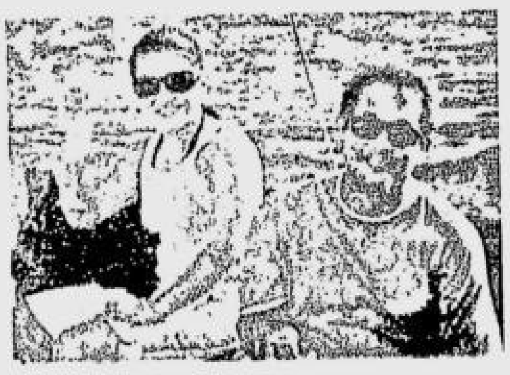
HUGE Havaianas fan, Pia Magalona

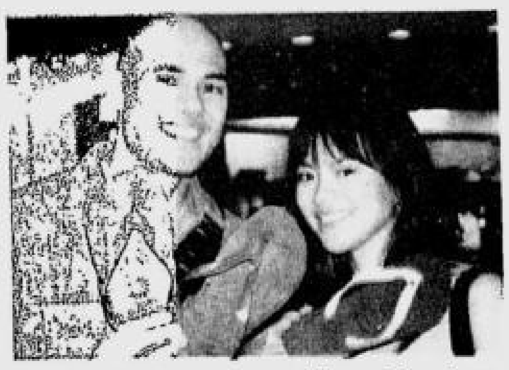
JET Set Magazine's Liza Ilarde and her customized Havaianas

INFINITY subscribers Greg Yaw and Perk Bautista chill on the yacht.



STEFANIA Son Zanirato and Ricardo Arnold

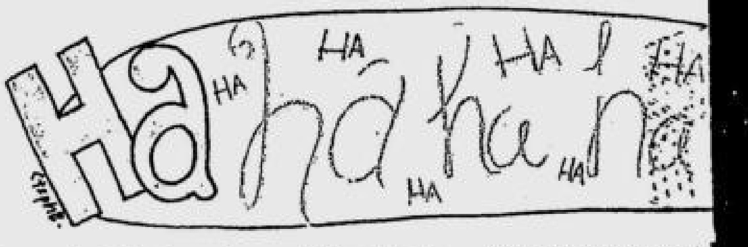
SMART Infinity's KIM Morales and Giselle Sia



ROVILSON Fernandez and Shawn Yao show off their customized flip-flops.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime Licauco



Laughter is the best medicine

ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO, NORMAN COUSINS, editor of the respected literary magazine Saturday Review in New York City, was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis, an incurable and fatal spinal column illness of unknown cause.

He tried all sorts of alternative remedies, including Vitamin B-17 or laetrile, large doses of Vitamin C and several others, with little or no effect on his condition.

So, one day, against the advice of his doctors, he left the hospital and closeted himself in his apartment for one month doing what he enjoyed most—reading humorous stories and jokes, watching comedy movies and reading his favorite comic books.

He did nothing but laugh and laugh each day for one whole month. He also wrote original jokes which he would read aloud to himself then laugh like crazy. He noticed that every time he laughed, his pain was eased.

At the end of one month, Cousins returned to the hospital for a checkup. To the surprise of the medical staff who examined him, they found no trace of the dreaded disease. He was completely cured!

So they asked Cousins what medicines he took that cured him. They would not believe him when he replied he had not taken any medicine since he was told his ailment was incurable.

They said, "You must have done something you never did before."

He finally replied, "All I did was to laugh myself to health." He became known as the man who cured himself through laughter, and was even appointed a faculty member of the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine, although he was not a doctor.

Later he told his incredible story in a book, "Anatomy of an Illness," which was made into a movie.

At that time, medical science did not believe there was any connection between the mind, the emotions and the immune system. The immune system was thought to be independent of and not subject to the directions of the mind or the vagaries of human emotions.

In the early 90's, I met Leonard Ponath of Dallas, Texas at a YPO (Young Presidents' Organization) regional conference in Cebu, where we were both guest speakers.

Ponath told the story of how, 18 years before the Cebu meeting, he fell buttocks first from a two-story building, broke his pelvic bones and was paralyzed from the hips down. Doctors told him he would never walk again.

While recuperating in a circular bed in the hospital, he began to visualize 100 construction workers reconstructing his pelvic bones. His visualization was aided by healing sounds used by the medicine men or shamans of Nicaragua's Mesquito Indians. He did the visualization morning, noon and evening.

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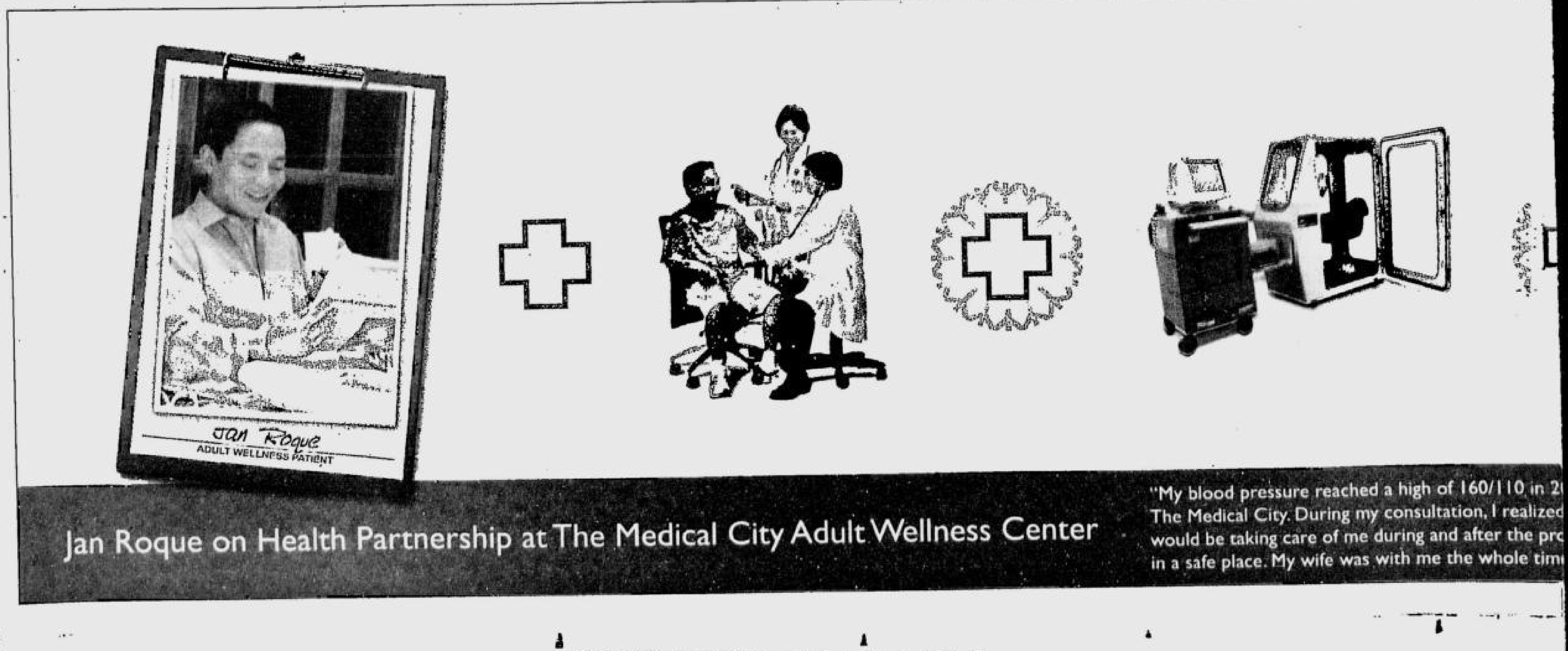
Jan Roque
ADULT WELLNESS PATIENT

Jan Roque on Health Partnership at The Medical City Adult Wellness Center

"My blood pressure reached a high of 160/110 in 2
The Medical City. During my consultation, I realized
would be taking care of me during and after the pro
in a safe place. My wife was with me the whole tim

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

resident Corie Clavano, CEB's Candice Iyog and Edwin glas Hunt exchange miniature car and plane. Looking on are

PRETTY Trixie Ayson with hunk Ryan Chan of Bellevue and eye-catching Yoli Ayson and her daughters Snowy and Pam

CEBU Pacific's Is Atos, Cholo Lat, Blessie Cruz, and Mahalia Leung

etaway

TWO Sams: Sam Y. G. of 99.5 Hit FM and Sam Oh of ETC

LAUREN, Nick and Mark Gikas at The Bellevue

BELLEVUE chair Johnny Chan with Janine and Danielle Fernandez

found at many retail outlets all over town, *palanggas.*

The event, dubbed as "the most fashionable flip-flop extravaganza," had been held in Australia, Japan, United States and, *naturellement*, Brazil.

Check out the Havaianas in the mall nearest you, *palanggas.*

Fun time

It was excitement at its best, *palanggas*, but it was not a fab fashionable event but a super fun kiddie bash hosted by the popular *famille* hotel in Alabang, the Bellevue.

Children of all ages, including their adorable young-at-heart parents, came for an afternoon of great fun and games. Hersheys gave away goodies and yummy chocolates, while Gymboree raffled off amazing prizes.

During the egg hunt, a lucky kid found a golden egg that had a Nintendo DS inside. Everyone went home a winner that afternoon, *palanggas.* Thanks to the Bellevue hotshot chair **Johnny Chan**, good-looking GM **Patrick Chan**, and marketing and communications director tall, handsome hunk **Ryan Chan**, who made sure it was playtime and fun time for the kids, *palanggas.*

SAN Miguel Beer man LA Tenorio

FIAMMA'S Paolo Trillo with supermodel Rissa Samson and her son

Service partnership

That fast expanding eye-catching and colorful airline Cebu Pacific (CEB) has tons lining up for its low airfares, *palanggas.*

Now Cebu Pacific has found another fab way to enhance its excellent service by tying up with the renowned world-class European car-rental service firm, Europcar, dahlings.

The super fun launch of this partnership held at the hip restobar Tropezz on the second level of Greenbelt 3 was packed with invitees and curious onlookers. Handsome and witty **Drew Arellano** was the event host.

Welcoming us were **Edwin Bautista**, CEB vice president for passenger sales; and **Candice Iyog**, CEB vice president for marketing and product, *palanggas.*

Later, as *moi* circulated, I was introduced to the *tres charmant* **Douglas Hunt**, Europcar's Asia-Pacific director; Southeast Asia director **Ken Chew**, and Europcar Philippines' president **Corie Clavano.**

The big moment was, as always, when Cebu Pacific raffled off cool round-trip Manila-Cebu tickets plus the day-long use of chauffeur-driven luxury car courtesy of Europcar, natch!

Then the party got rolling, pumped by the dance music of **Judith Banal**, the Power Play band, and **Ais Roxas** and Querdas. Everyone got on their feet to dance, dance, dance, *palanggas.*

of his confinement, he
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magery or some other
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medical doctors and
ore and even frown upon such stories for several reasons.

First, they happen at random and quite infrequently. Second, they cannot be explained scientifically or rationally.

Third, they seem to happen mainly to people who are suggestible and therefore highly subjective.

But neuroscientists and other specialists in the last 20 or 30 years have begun to unravel the mysterious connections among our nervous system, emotions and the immune system.

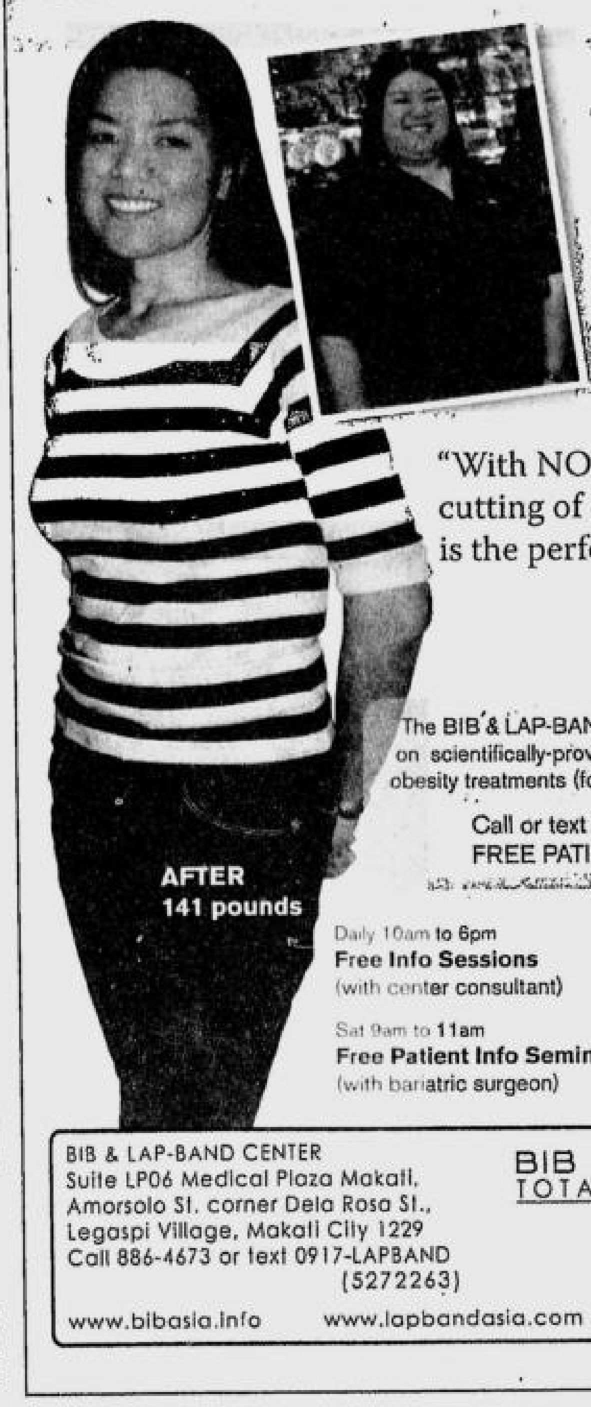
They have discovered and are still discovering the vital role our minds and emotions play in the emergence of disease and its possible management and cure..

In the near future, more progressive physicians will be asking their patients not only about the symptoms they have but also the following: "How do you feel about your job? Your wife or husband? Your mother-in-law? What upsets you or makes you angry? Do you get enough sleep? Etc."

They may prescribe not just drugs or surgery but also meditation, visualization, yoga, Qui Gong, Tai Chi or even laughter to fight disease.

Note: The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be at 9 a.m.-5 p.m., June 23-24. Interested parties may call tel. nos. 810-7245, 892-6806; fax 815-9890; or e-mail innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.

'Half the woman that I used to be... and loving it!'



"I chose the LAP-BAND because it's the Safest and Most Effective weight loss option, and it could be adjusted if I wanted to have a baby."

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Your Doctor Knows Best

Emmanuel V. Arca, MD

Question:

I found out that I have high blood pressure (BP) when I had my BP taken by a friend. He also has high blood pressure so I asked what medication he is taking and took it myself. I started having headaches. What should I do?

Doctor Says...

Stop taking the medication and consult a doctor the soonest time possible. You have three problems at hand – high blood pressure, self-medication and headaches.

High blood pressure. Only a doctor can say if you really have high blood pressure or hypertension. The diagnosis of hypertension cannot be based solely on one BP reading. At least two BP readings on separate occasions are needed to diagnose hypertension and these should be done by a trained and qualified healthcare professional.

Self-medication. You should NEVER self-medicate. Prescription medications like an antihypertensive drug are called as such because a doctor should prescribe this drug before you can take it. Drugs are double-edged swords that can either heal you or harm you, depending on how you use these. Doctors are trained and knowledgeable on the effects of the drugs and they are the only person who can give you prescription medication that will ensure you benefit from the drug and it is appropriate for you. A drug that is good for your friend may not be necessarily good for you because of individual differences that may affect how the drug acts on our bodies and how our bodies respond to the drug.

Headaches. There are many causes of headaches and these may range from as simple as tension or stress to as severe as brain infection and tumor. Again, your doctor is the best person to evaluate your condition. He will obtain your complete medical history and do physical and neurological examinations to determine the cause of your headaches.

It is important to note the onset, location, and character of pain, duration, trigger factors and accompanying symptoms of your headaches to determine the possible cause. Since you self-prescribed an antihypertensive medication, it is also possible that your headaches are drug-induced or what is usually called as a side effect of the drug.

A side effect is a term used to describe the unwanted, negative consequences associated with drug therapy. Skin changes such as rashes and urticaria (itchy, reddened irregular, elevated patches) are the most common side effects of many drugs. Antihypertensive medications may cause side effects such as headache, dizziness and cough, fatigue, weakness and muscle cramps, depending on the drug class. Different classes of drugs have different known side effects. These are listed on the prescribing information of the drug – read this information before taking the drug. You will also be advised by your doctor of the common side effects of the drug that he will give to you. If you self-medicate, you will not know the possible side effects of the drug and you are putting yourself in danger. Thus, always consult your doctor and never self-medicate.

Dr. Arca is the Drug Safety Physician of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals Philippines.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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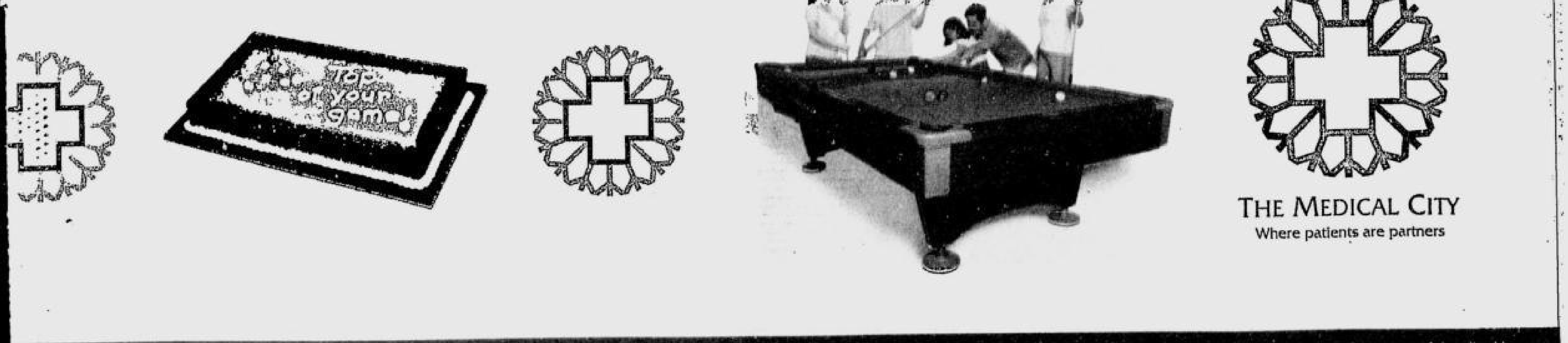

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. When it was finished, she was so impressed that she couldn't wait to undergo her own wellness program!"

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The conditioner contains honey water to hydrate hair and reduce static. It also has whole oranges and strawberries to boost shine. The shampoo, on the other hand, detoxifies the scalp with rosemary, juniper and peppermint.

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GORGEOUS
BOHEM

DOUG Kramer and Cheska Garcia check out the different soaps and hair products at Lush.

LUSH IS
HANDS ON

MODEL Cheska Garcia and basketball player Doug Kramer give Lush products as gifts.

Low-calorie soy drink

CHARMY FOOD PHILIPPINES, INC., THE country's leading soy-based food manufacturer, introduces Charmy Soyammi, a soy milk drink that is low in calories and has zero cholesterol.

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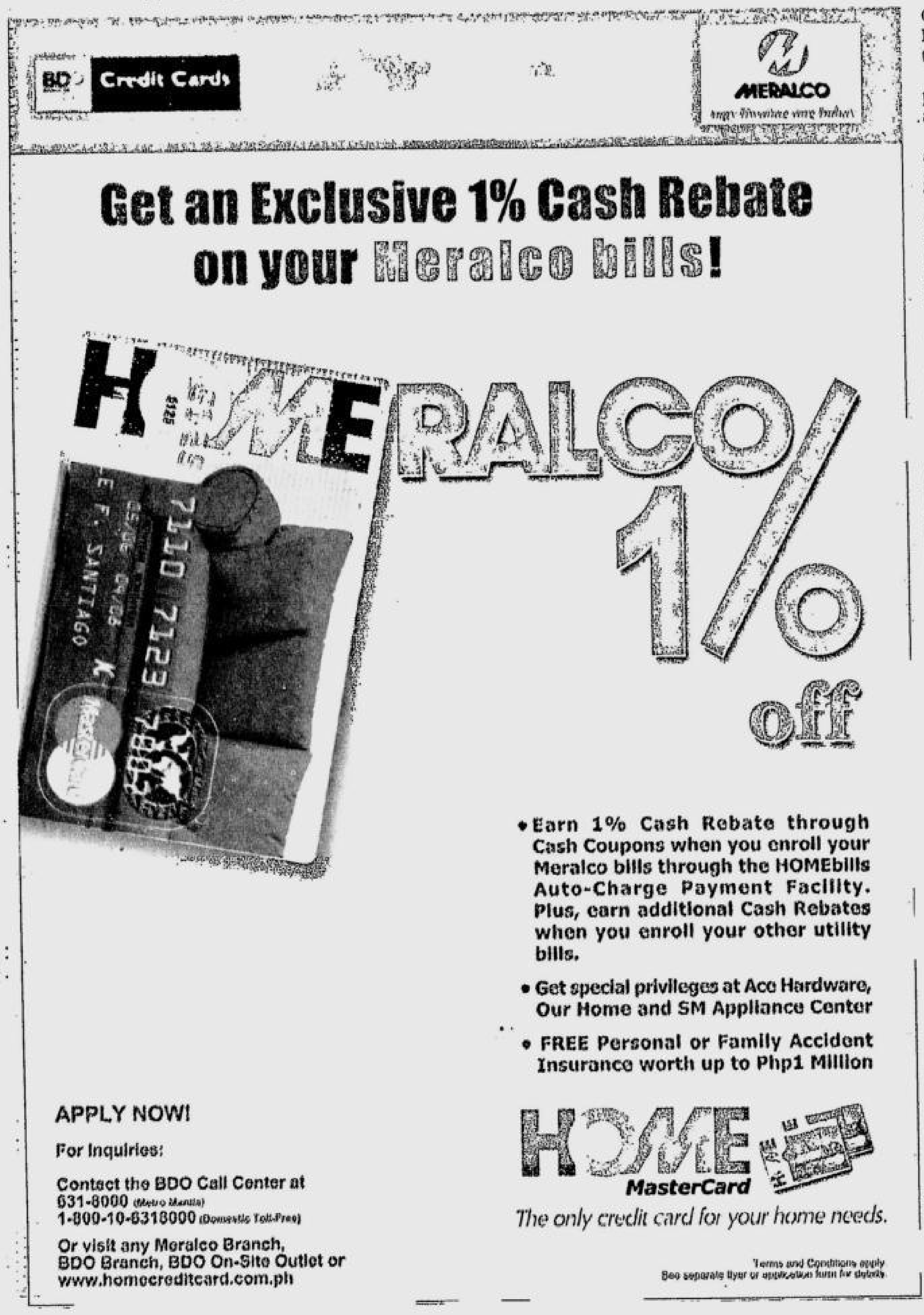
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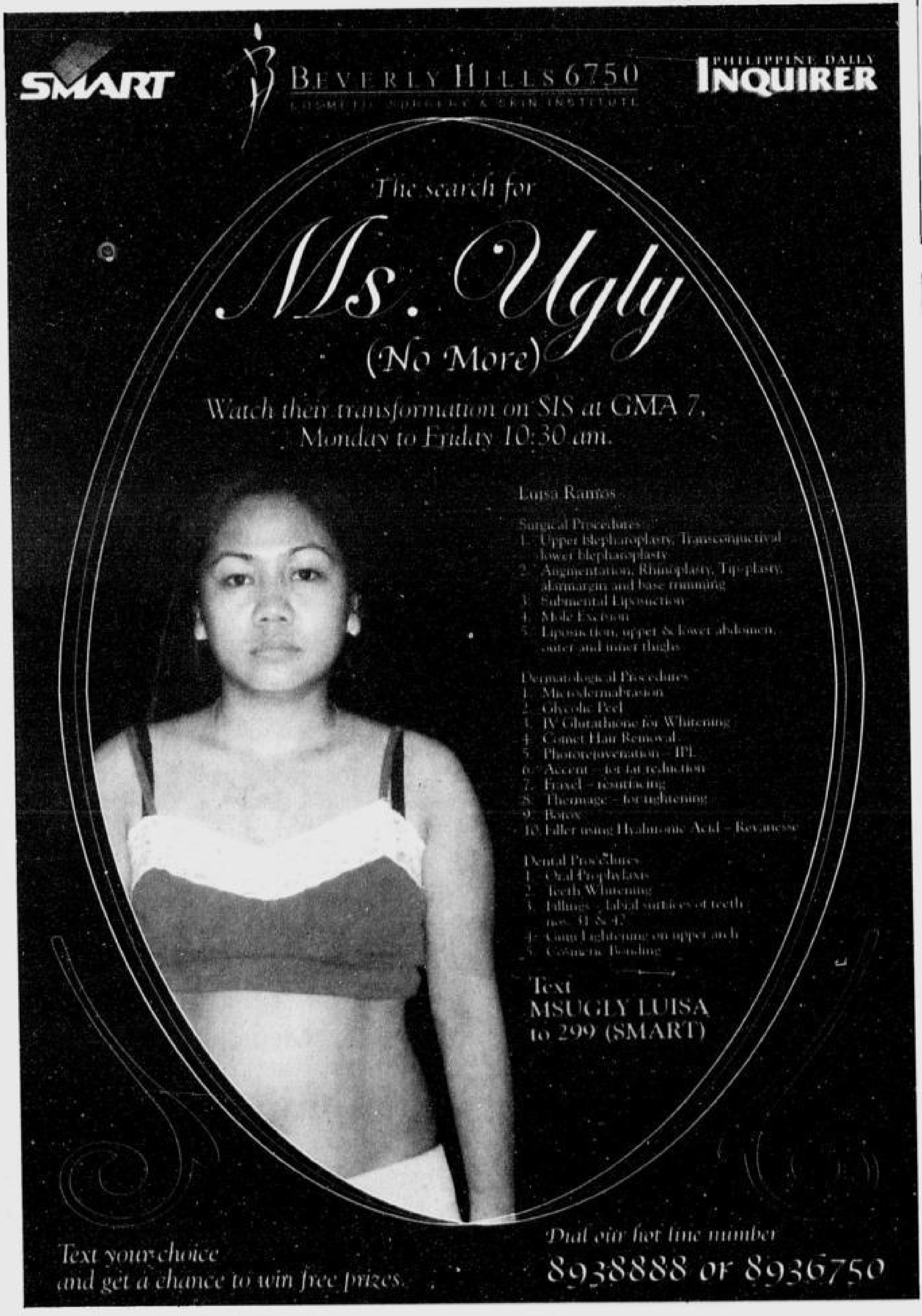
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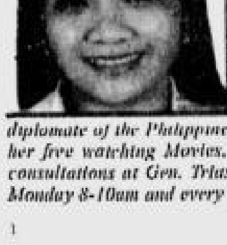

This week's answer to our feature question is courtesy of Dr. Lalaine Madlangbayan Nicolas. Dr. Nicolas specializes in Pulmonology. She earned her medical degree at the University of Santo Tomas and took her residency training for Internal Medicine and finished her fellowship training for Pulmonology in De La Salle University Medical Center. She is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and a diplomate of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. She spends her free watching Movies. MEDICard members may avail for her consultations at Gen. Trias Maternity and Pediatric Hospital every Monday 8-10am and every Thursday 9-11am.

Nicky

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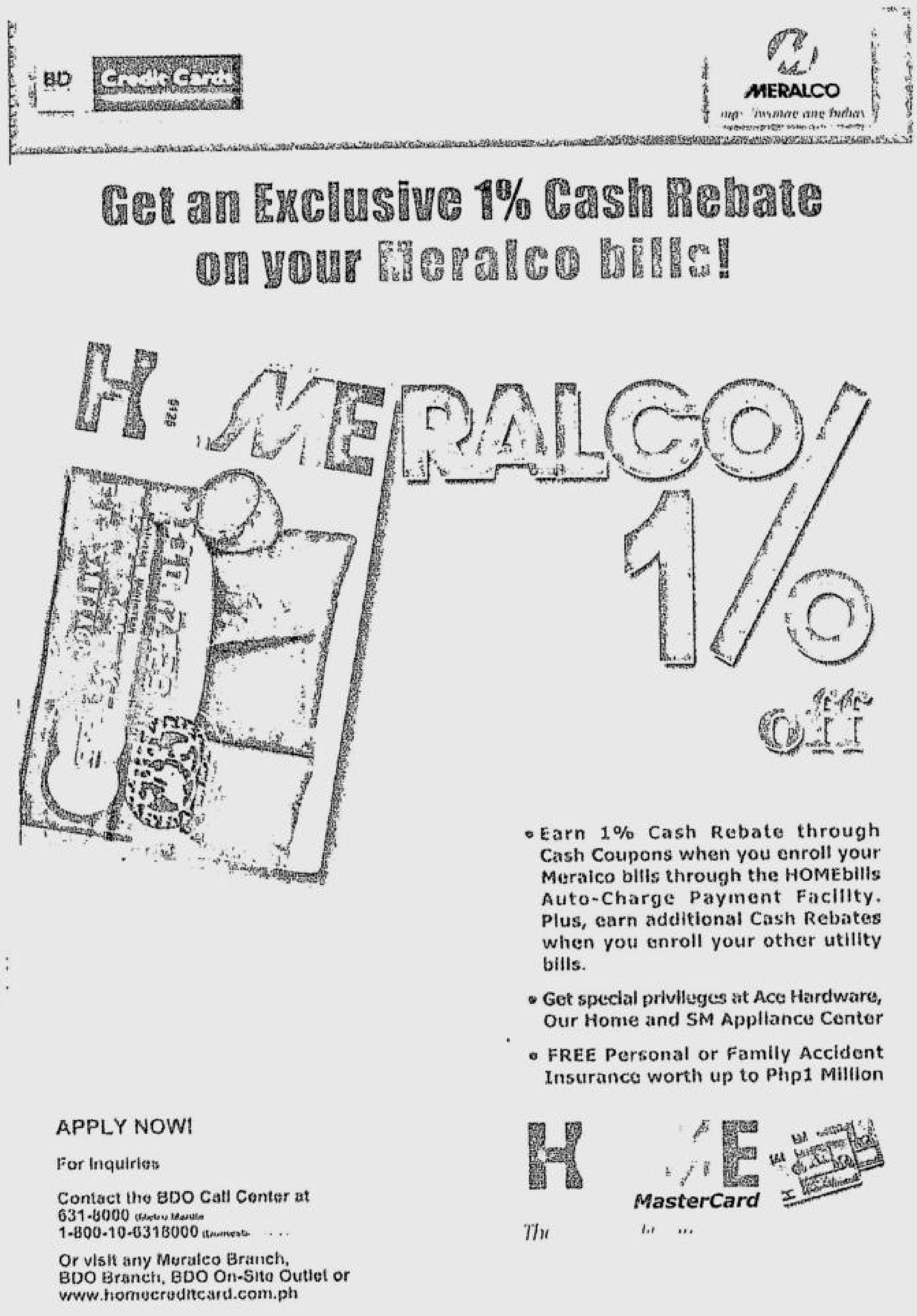
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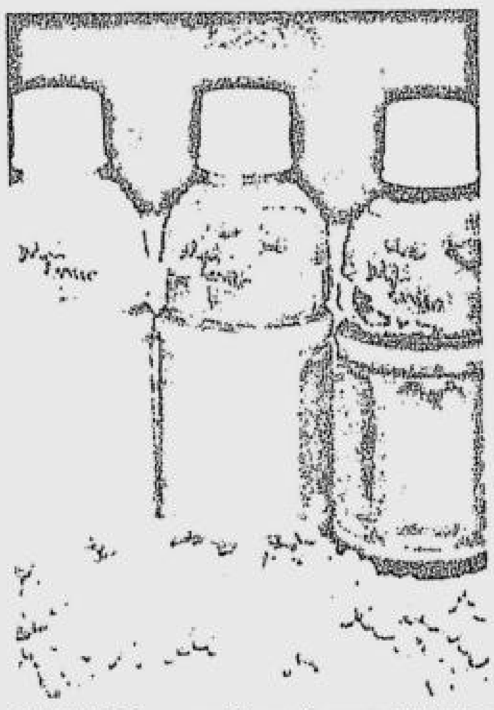
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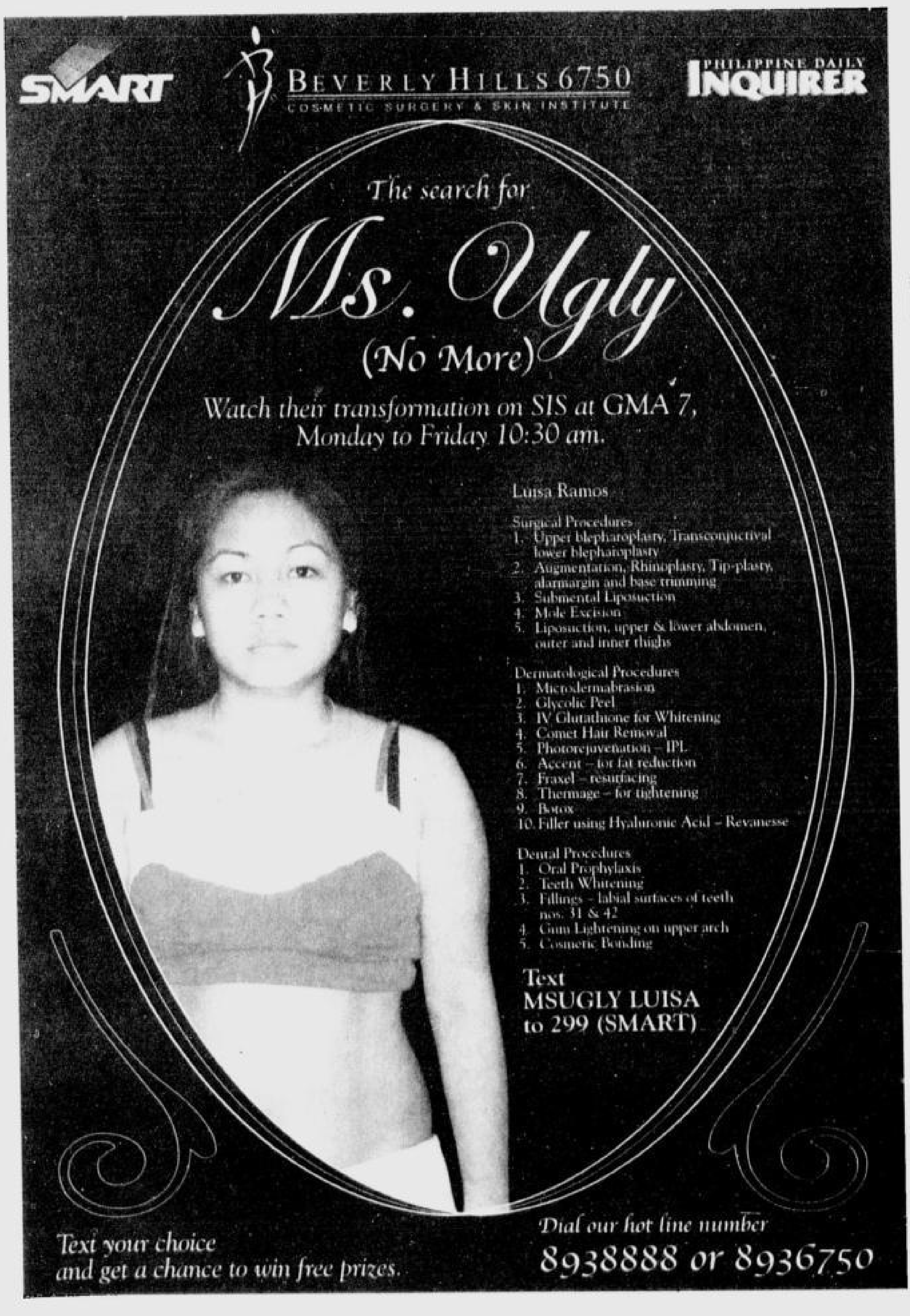
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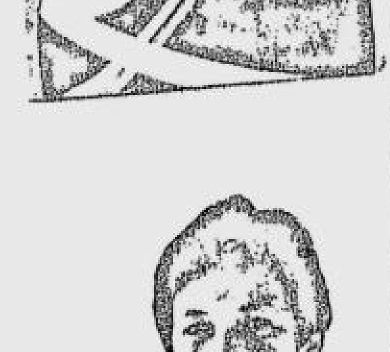

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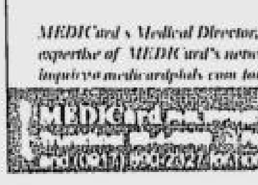

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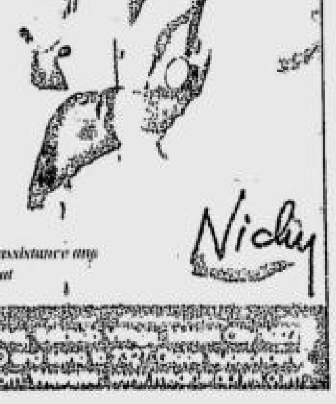

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Enough, says John

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DIETHER OCAMPO LAUGHS off rumors linking his ladylove **Kristine Hermosa** to **Gretchen Barretto's** partner **Tonyboy Cojuangco.** After Greta's controversial kiss pic with John Estrada surfaced, talks spread that she and Tonyboy were having problems because he's smitten with Kristine.

"Kristine has never even met Tony," Diet points out.

Both Greta and John have given statements to media. Greta says Tonyboy has forgiven her. John was man enough to admit that the pics were taken using his cell phone. I checked on both of them after the scandal broke. John texted me back: "I'm just not used to this kind of intrigues. I'm gonna take it easy from now on. *'Yoko na!* Hehe." Just like *moi*, John wishes to kiss intrigues goodbye!

***

When it rains intrigues, it

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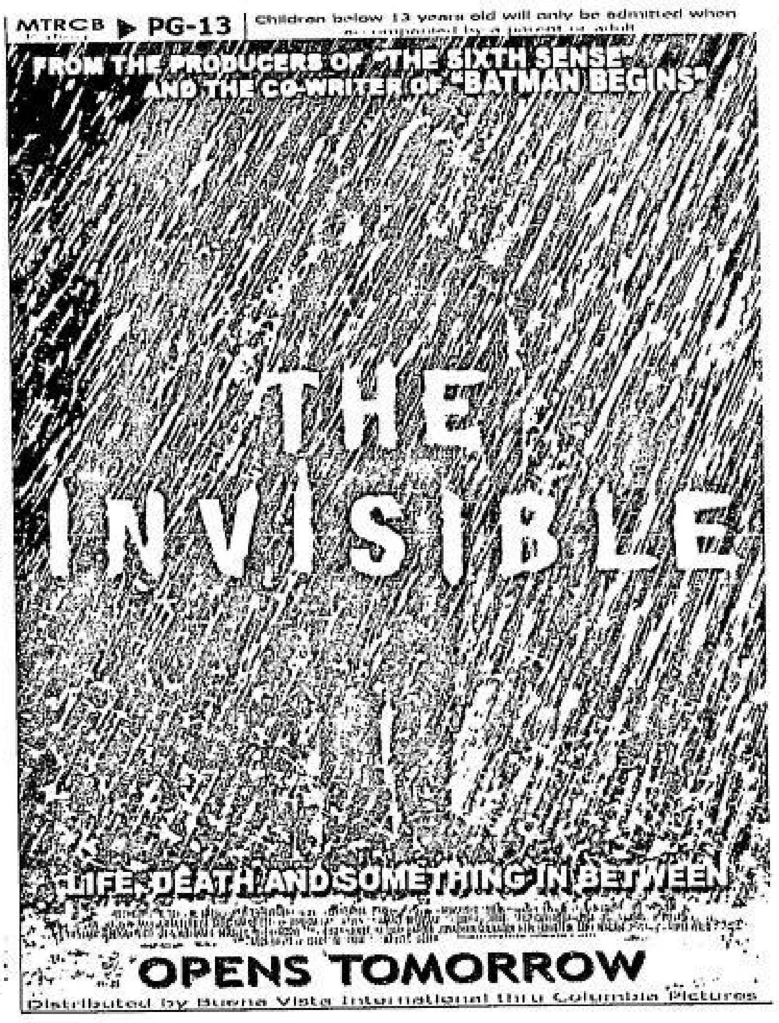
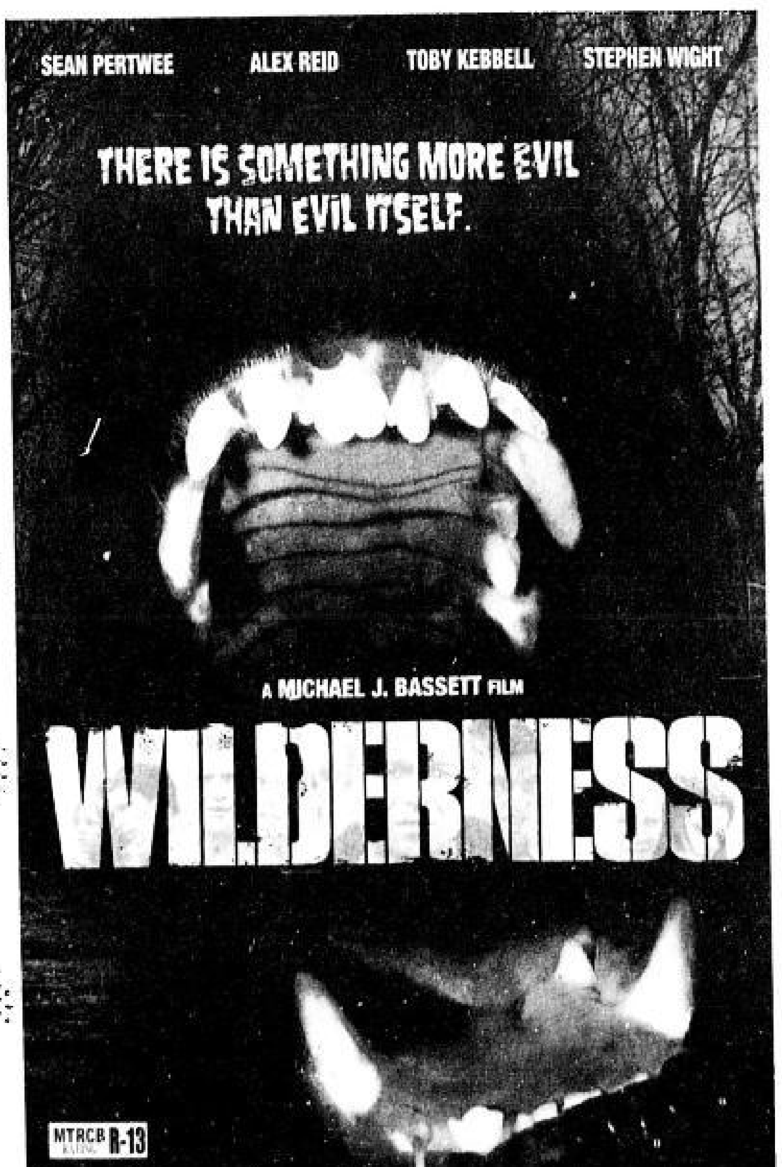
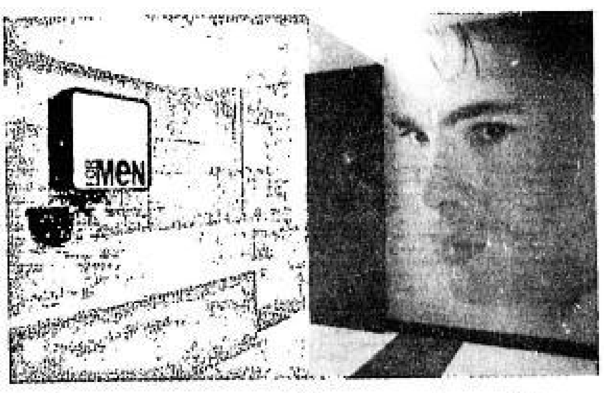
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	June 22, 29, 2007 August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Drag - Ons Cerrudo Classico... Classic	10:00 PM 8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116


MTRCB PG-13
Children below 13 years old will only be admitted when accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "THE SIXTH SENSE" AND THE CO-WRITER OF "BATMAN BEGINS"
THE INVISIBLE
LIFE, DEATH AND SOMETHING IN BETWEEN
OPENS TOMORROW
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


SEAN PERTWEE
ALEX REID
TOBY KEBBELL
STEPHEN WIGHT
THERE IS SOMETHING MORE EVIL THAN EVIL ITSELF.
A MICHAEL J. BASSETT FILM
WILDERNESS
MTRCB R-13
OPENS TOMORROW

Give Your Looks — an Upgrade

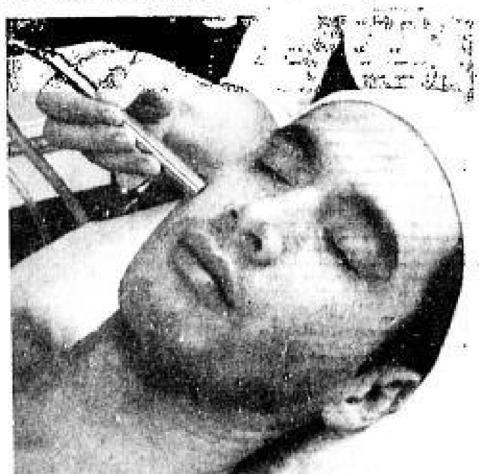


Facial Care Centre FOR MEN offers

5 Ways to rid your skin of its flaws

1 Acne scars and Blemishes

Sure, chicks dig the Colin-Farell-scruffy look, but acne scars and blemishes *do not* equal ruggedly handsome. Pricking pimples end up in scars and blemishes - which last longer than the actual zits! Before someone calls you Crater Face, try the **Diamond Peel.** It's a highly advanced procedure that'll painlessly remove old dead surface skin. It gets rid of post-acne scars, blemishes and other dark spots.



Diamond Peel

2 Pimple breakouts and Back Acne

You've already been through hell in high school (unless you managed to skip the awkward stage). Acne on your face subtracts *pogi* points, while acne on your back ruins your sex appeal. So leave acne to past pubescent memories. **LightCure Acne Therapy** is an easy, effective way to get rid of the acne-fast. It uses a high intensity blue-violet light to kill acne bacteria. Amazingly, it treats zits on any part of the body 3x faster than other procedures.

3 Fine lines and Wrinkles

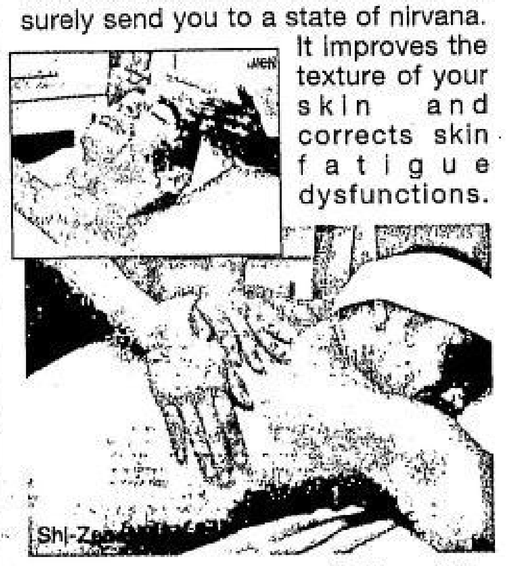
Lousy pick-up lines and fine facial lines: neither will get you the girl. And don't go denying your age, because the wrinkles are a giveaway. **Fraxel** is a hi-tech laser treatment that works like computer-generated retouching! (Think PhotoShop for your face.) Fraxel can "airbrush" away wrinkles and fine lines, with no surgery whatsoever. Revealing your age is up to you.

4 Loose, sagging skin

Everything is faster these days. Want to look years younger in less than an hour? **ReFirme** is a skin-tightening treatment with no needles, stitches, scars or sedation involved. After a quick 45-minute session, sags are lifted. Lines are diminished and skin is firmer.

5 Skin Fatigue

Stressed? Who isn't, these days? Relax and get pampered with **Shi-Zen D-Tox.** The combination of Shiatsu massage with a detoxification facial mask will surely send you to a state of nirvana. It improves the texture of your skin and corrects skin fatigue dysfunctions.



Shi-Ze

All treatments are available at the FOR MEN Centre. Call 813-7959 for a free consultation.

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IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM
Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM
Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM
Admission Prices: P 250
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 BLACKOUT/ SHREK 3

PREMIERE CINEMA
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

CENTERSTAGE
FANTASTIC FOUR

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
FANTASTIC FOUR
CINEMA 2
FANTASTIC FOUR
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 BORDERTOWN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 BLACKOUT
10 SILIP
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SHREK 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 BLACKOUT
8 BORDERTOWN
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12 SILIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BLACKOUT
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 BORDERTOWN
9 SILIP
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
11 SHREK 3
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 BORDERTOWN
9 BLACKOUT
10 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 BLACKOUT
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SILIP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 BLACKOUT
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
9 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SILIP
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 BLACKOUT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 BORDERTOWN
10 SHREK 3
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BLACKOUT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

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1 BORDERTOWN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 OCEAN'S 13

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-85
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WHISPER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 BLACKOUT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 WHISPER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 LUCKY YOU
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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GALLERIA Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine : 100 632-9116

1 FANTASTIC FOUR • THX
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
4 OCEAN'S 13
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
7 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
8 indieSine: BIG TIME
1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 BORDERTOWN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
2 MEET the ROBINSONS 12:30 2:50
BORDERTOWN 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 OCEAN'S 13
11:25 2:05 4:45 7:25 10:00
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:15 2:50 6:25 10:00

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METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20
4 OCEAN'S 13
1:05 3:35 6:10 9:00
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
6 BORDERTOWN 11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:00 6:00 8:00
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 OCEAN' 13
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 MEET the ROBINSONS

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00
3 OCEAN'S 13
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40
4 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:10 2:25 4:40 7:05 8:55

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

LIPA Ticket Price: P 90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WHISPER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 28 WEEKS LATER

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ZODIAC
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 SILIP
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 OCEAN'S 13

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WHISPER
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 MEET the ROBINSONS / MR. BEAN
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

Enough, says John

From page D1

pours! **Rufa Mae Quinto** is drenched with the issues hounding her these days. The pix of Greta and John were taken during her birthday bash, so she's being grilled for the real score. On top of that, she's being linked to **Mark Herras** and Mark Bautista... plus, there's her breakup with **Erik Santos**.

She sighs, "I've been trying to laugh and pretend everything's OK but, deep inside, I'm sad. I hope people won't judge Erik and me. I know it's not the end for us but the beginning. We are both working so hard for our families; that's why we don't get to spend enough time together. We are trying to fix this."

When one works too hard, love doesn't come easy. Sometimes lovers should step back so they can see what they have.

Angels

ANGEL Locsin is on pins and needles: Her first venture as producer ("Angels") is opening on June 20. It's a trilogy of heartwarming stories. Angel is being unfairly accused of being "un-angelic" toward her home studio, GMA 7, for turning down the lead role in the local version of "Marimar." She opted to take a two-month hiatus from show biz to take up fashion design in London. She laments, "I've been working too hard to make people happy. Now, I want to do something that will make me happy, something new. I hope they understand that even machines need to take a break."

Isn't she wary that someone will replace her while she's gone? "That's for the public to decide. I think there's room for everybody."

Will her rumored boyfriend Marvin Agustin go to London, too, and visit his "queen"? I remember Marvin telling me before about this girl he followed to Singapore. I wouldn't be surprised if he does the same for Angel. He seems to be walking on cloud 9 with her. Locsin and Agustin sound just heavenly!

HAPEE together

Name it and, most likely, **Lea Salonga** has done it as far as reaping international acclaim is concerned. Her name has become synonymous to world-class Filipino talent.

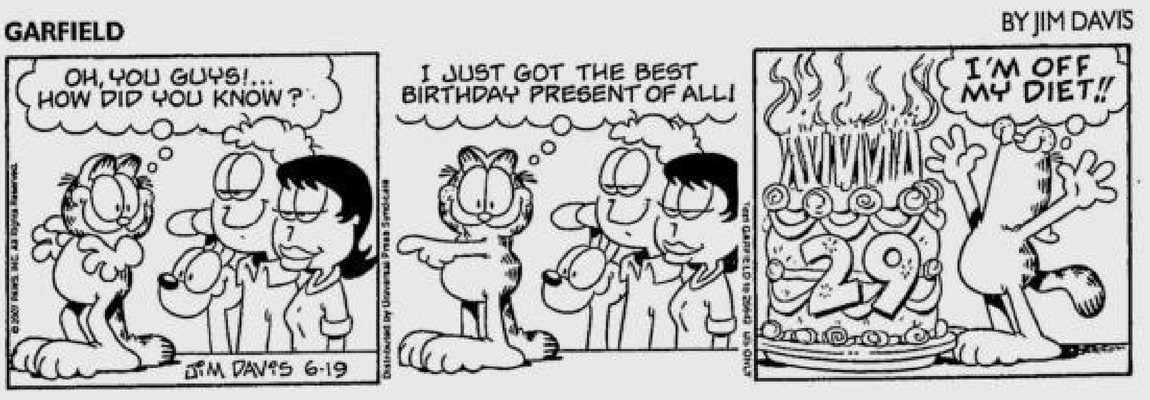
So it's but fitting that a 100 percent local brand that has held its own in a multinational brand- dominated market should tap Lea as their new endorser—Hapee toothpaste.

I keep in touch with Lea regularly via e-mail. Her

ENOUGH/ D4

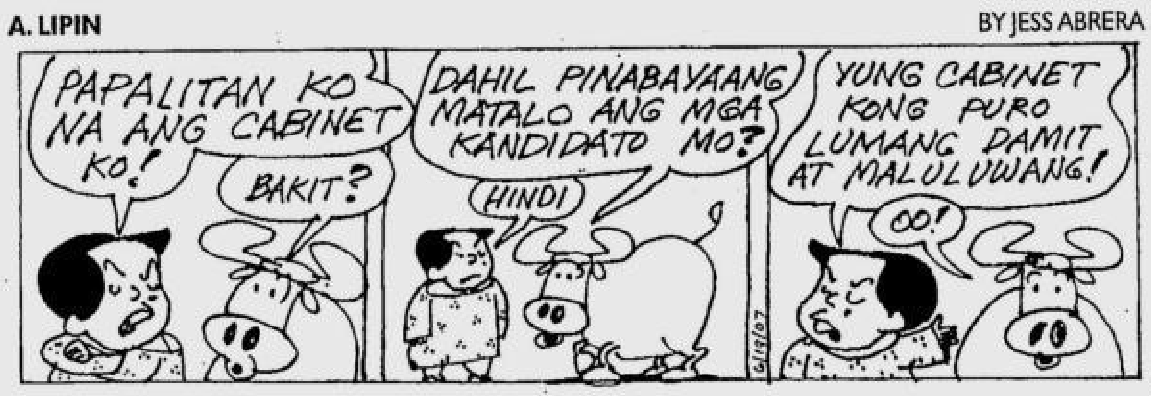
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


OH, YOU GUYS!... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I JUST GOT THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT OF ALL!
I'M OFF MY DIET!!
29
JIM DAVIS 6-19

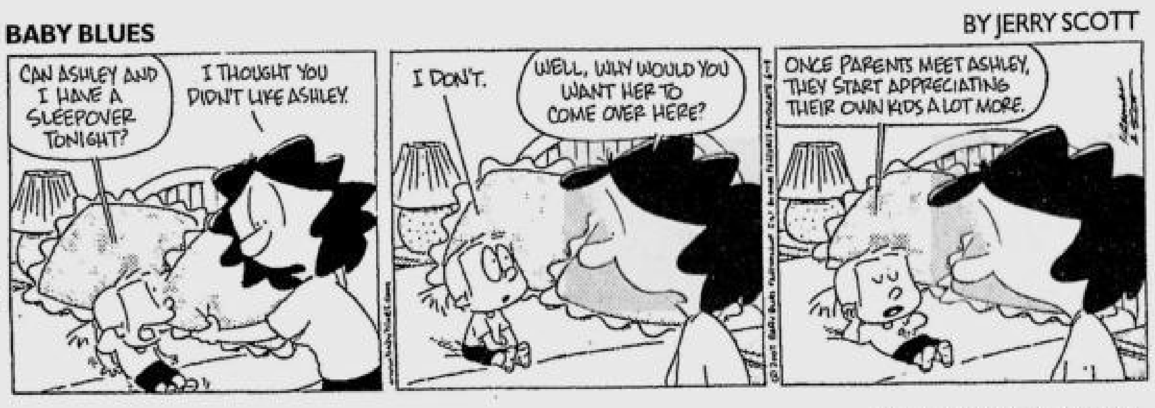
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAPALITAN KO NA ANG CABINET KO!
BAKIT?
DAHIL PINABAYAANG MATALO ANG MGA KANDIDATO MO?
HINDI
YUNG CABINET KONG PURO LUMANG DAMIT AT MALULUWANG!
OO!
6/19/07

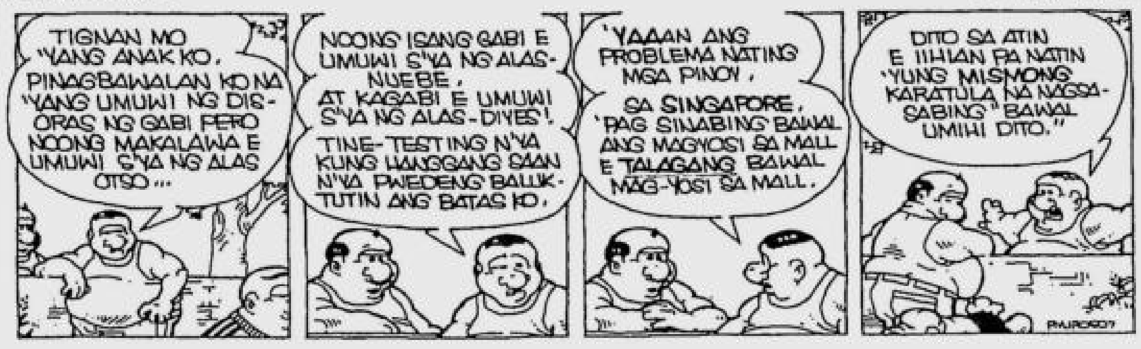
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN ASHLEY AND I HAVE A SLEEPOVER TONIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ASHLEY.
I DON'T.
WELL, WHY WOULD YOU WANT HER TO COME OVER HERE?
ONCE PARENTS MEET ASHLEY, THEY START APPRECIATING THEIR OWN KIDS A LOT MORE.

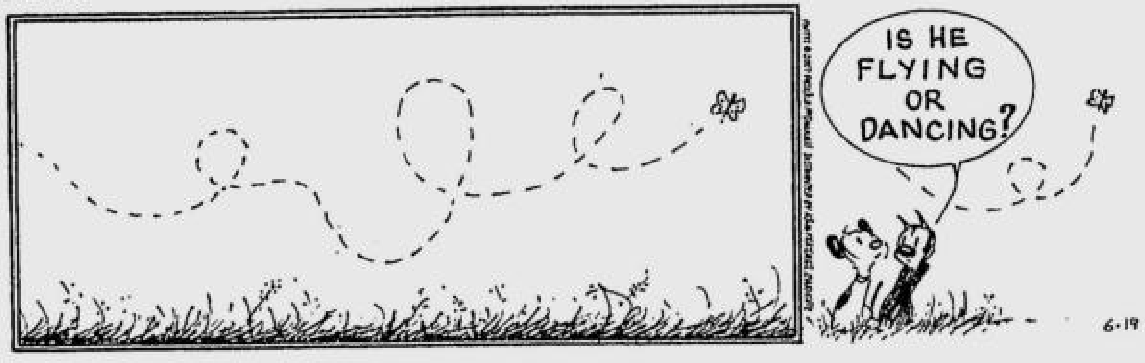
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO 'YANG ANAK KO. PINAGBAWALAN KO NA 'YANG UMUWI NG DIS-ORAS NG GABI PERO NOONG MAKALAWA E UMUWI S'YA NG ALAS OTSO...
NOONG ISANG GABI E UMUWI S'YA NG ALAS-NUEBE. AT KAGABI E UMUWI S'YA NG ALAS-DIYES! TINE-TESTING N'YA KUNG HANGGANG SAAN N'YA PWEDENG BALUKTUTIN ANG BATAS KO.
'YAAAN ANG PROBLEMA NATING MGA PINOY. SA SINGAPORE, 'PAG SINABING BAWAL ANG MAGYOSI SA MALL E TALAGANG BAWAL MAG-YOSI SA MALL.
DITO SA ATIN E IIHIAN PA NATIN 'YUNG MISMONG KARATULA NA NAGSASABING "BAWAL UMIHI DITO."
PAJARO07

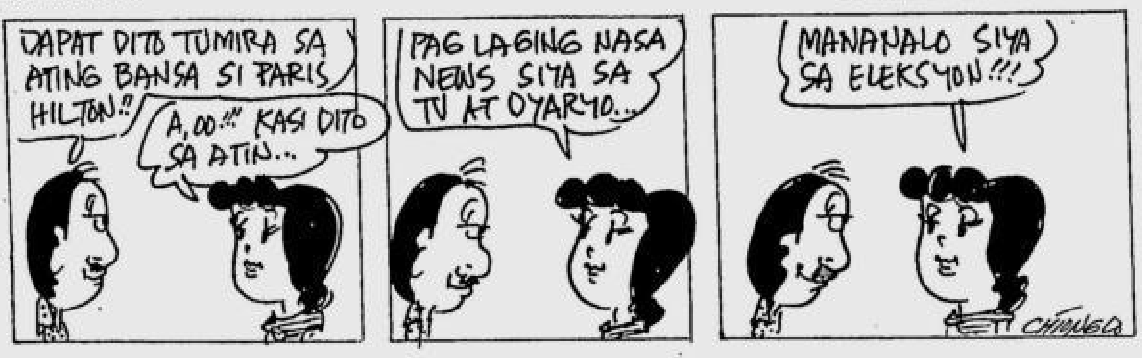
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IS HE FLYING OR DANCING?
6-19

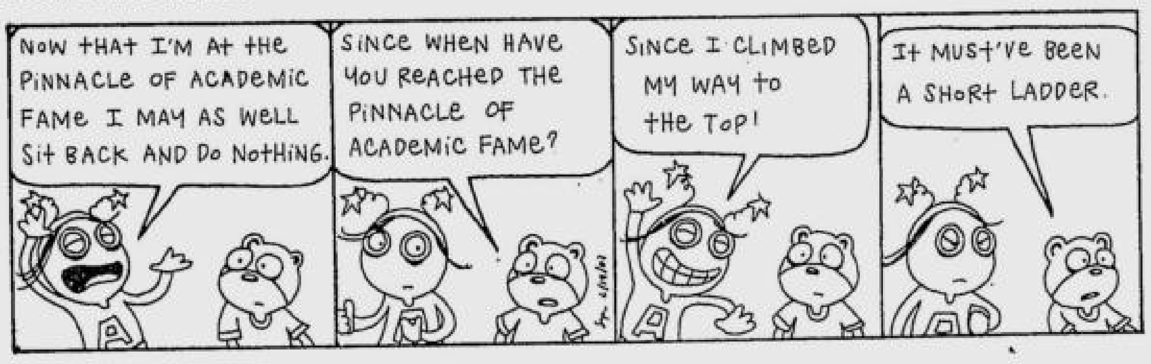
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DAPAT DITO TUMIRA SA ATING BANSA SI PARIS HILTON!!
A, OO!!! KASI DITO SA ATIN...
PAG LAGING NASA NEWS SIYA SA TV AT DYARYO...
MANANALO SIYA SA ELEKSYON!!!
CHIONGLO

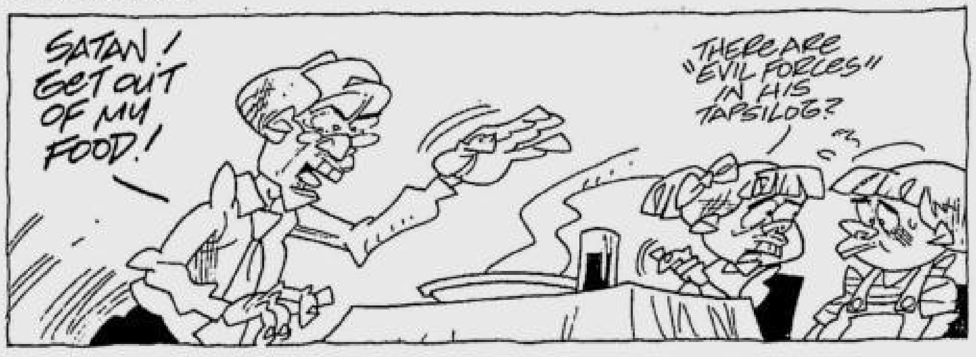
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NOW THAT I'M AT THE PINNACLE OF ACADEMIC FAME I MAY AS WELL SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING.
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU REACHED THE PINNACLE OF ACADEMIC FAME?
SINCE I CLIMBED MY WAY TO THE TOP!
IT MUST'VE BEEN A SHORT LADDER.

DIVINE COMEDY

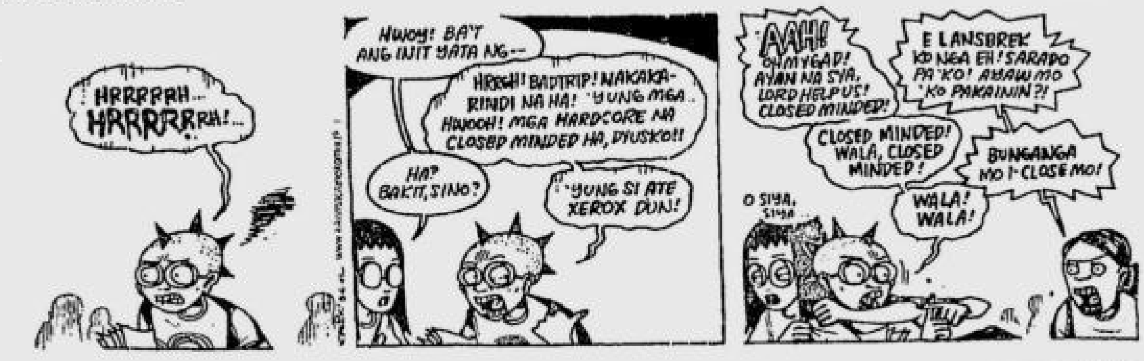
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SATAN! GET OUT OF MY FOOD!
THERE ARE "EVIL FORCES" IN HIS TAPSILOG?

HOW PENTE-COSTALS SAY GRACE

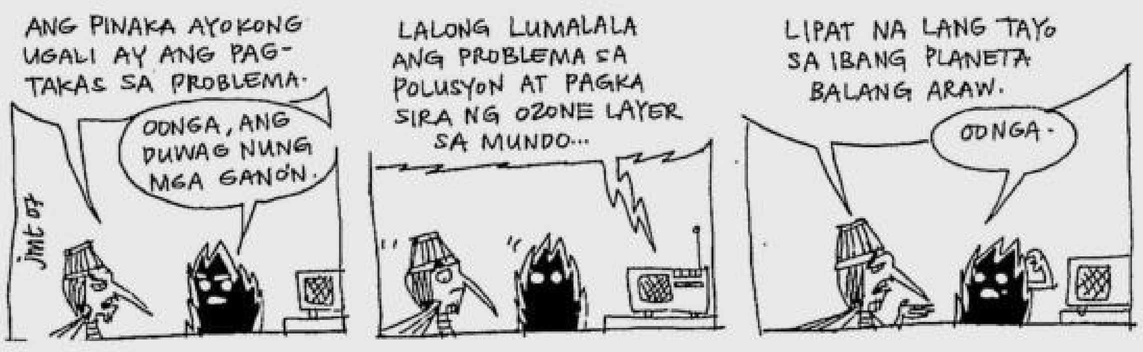
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRRRRH... HRRRRRRH!...
HWOY! BA'T ANG INIT YATA NG--
HRRGH! BADTRIP! NAKAKA-RINDI NA HA! 'YUNG MGA.. HWOOH! MGA HARDCORE NA CLOSED MINDED HA, DYUSKO!!
HA? BAKIT, SINO?
'YUNG SI ATE XEROX DUN!
AAH! OHMYGAD! AYAN NA SYA. LORD HELP US! CLOSED MINDED!
E LANSBREK KO NGA EH! SARADO PA 'KO! AYAW MO 'KO PAKAININ?!
CLOSED MINDED! WALA, CLOSED MINDED!
BUNGANGA MO I-CLOSE MO!
WALA! WALA!
O SIYA, SIYA

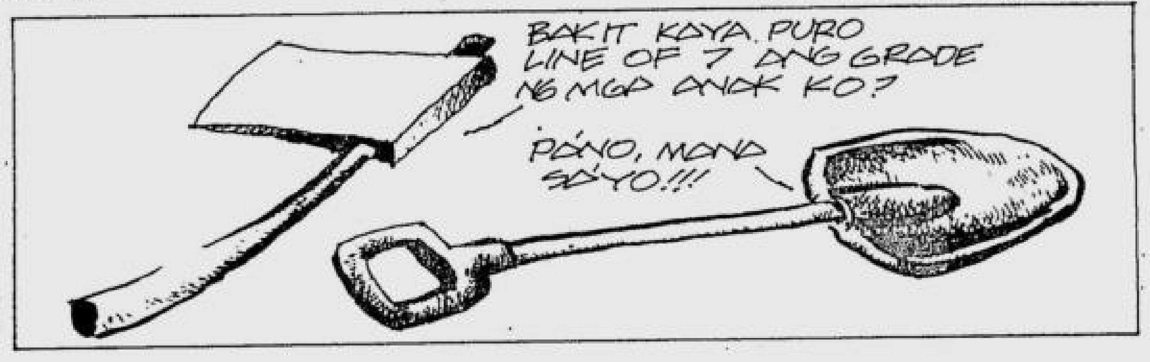
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG PINAKA AYOKONG UGALI AY ANG PAG-TAKAS SA PROBLEMA.
OONGA, ANG DUWAG NUNG MGA GANON.
LALONG LUMALALA ANG PROBLEMA SA POLUSYON AT PAGKA SIRA NG OZONE LAYER SA MUNDO...
LIPAT NA LANG TAYO SA IBANG PLANETA BALANG ARAW.
OONGA.
jmt 07

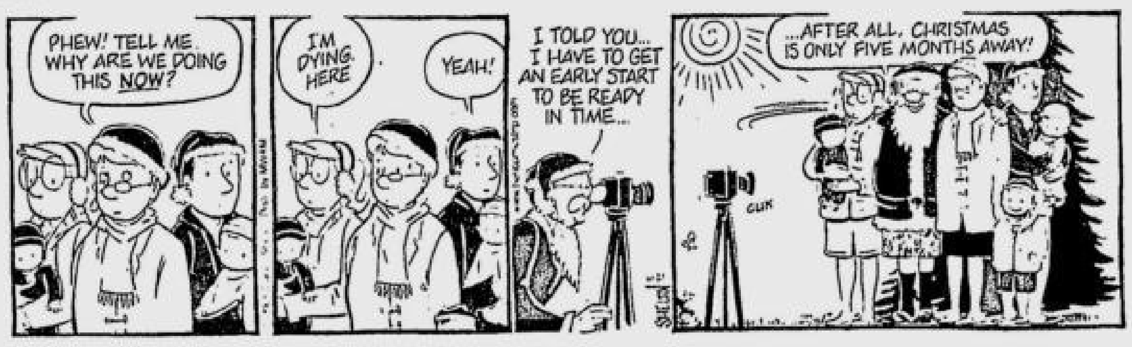
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT KAYA PURO LINE OF 7 ANG GRADE NG MGA ANAK KO?
PANO, MANA SA'YO!!!

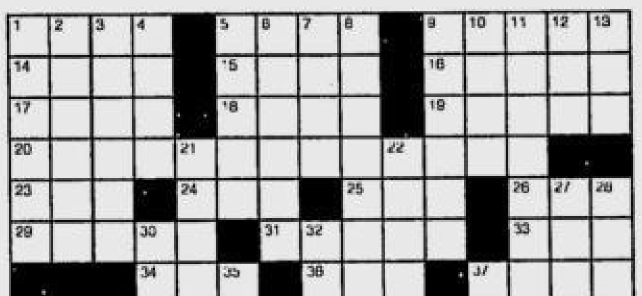
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PHEW! TELL ME WHY ARE WE DOING THIS NOW?
I'M DYING HERE
YEAH!
I TOLD YOU... I HAVE TO GET AN EARLY START TO BE READY IN TIME...
...AFTER ALL, CHRISTMAS IS ONLY FIVE MONTHS AWAY!
CLIK

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Good buddies
5 Numbers subject
9 Fragrant essential oil
14 Code name?
15 Hodgepodge
16 Fencing maneuver
17 CD track
18 Stead
19 Fancy feather
20 Girlie make-up
23 NY winter hrs.
24 Pay dirt
25 Period of note
26 Cut back
29 12-step prog.
31 Glossy fabric
33 Pindaric effort
34 Peaty spot
36 Sleepy's pal
37 Declare openly
38 Mature hair coloring
42 Ditto
43 Grant's adversary
44 Comeuppance
45 Poetic peeper
46 Withers
48 Some past despots
52 What to call an officer
53 Industrious insect
54 G.I.'s address
56 Court divider
57 No-frills dressing
61 Basil sauce
63 Huron/Ontario separator
64 Pineapple firm
65 Green card holder
66 Smudge on Santa
67 Handicrafts
68 Shuts with force
69 Light on one's feet
70 Say Hey Kid



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

6/19/07

DOWN
1 QB, often
2 Stir up
3 Duration
4 Tale on a grand scale
5 Grinding tooth
6 Flared skirts
7 Evened the score
8 Outside roof
9 Way from Rome to Brindisi
10 Baby powder
11 Sweetheart
12 Hand holder?
13 Grain in a Salinger title
21 Mechanical man
22 Put a value on
27 Nose alert
28 Chapel seating
30 Up to the job
32 Calculating snake?
35 Lead ore
37 Learns monkey-style
38 Agra attire
39 Food of the gods
40 Housekeeper's aim
41 Stage
42 Call for help
46 Sites for sets
47 Redeemer
49 Long-haired cat
50 Landed property
51 Accent
55 Devoutness
58 News bit
59 Spot of rain
60 Mild Dutch cheese
61 Ballerina steps
62 Architectural add-on

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	S	K	S		C	O	S	T		C	R	A	M
U	R	I	A	H		U	N	O	S		O	H	I	O
F	I	Z	Z	Y	D	R	I	N	K		R	E	D	S
F	L	E	A		A	L	O	T		S	K	E	E	T
			N	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	S			
P	A	S		V	E	E		G	O	T	O	S	E	A
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O		P	A	U	L	I	V
S	W	E	A	R		T	S	O		S	N	I	D	E
C	A	N	D	L	E		U	N	B	I	D	D	E	N
I	N	D	I	A	N	A		P	O	D		E	R	S
			O	P	E	N	L	A	N	E	S			
M	A	S	T	S		G	E	T	Z		E	I	N	E
O	A	H	U		D	E	A	R	O	L	D	D	A	D
L	R	O	N		A	L	P	O		P	A	L	M	E
E	P	E	E		N	A	T	L		S	N	E	E	R

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6/19/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're not a quitter. You keep at whatever you're doing with determination and enthusiasm. (A challenge simply spurs you to action!) You're committed to your goals and are extremely persuasive in promoting whatever you embrace. In the year ahead, you will discover or learn something important to you. Be ready to explore new ways of learning something.
Birthdate of: Gena Rowlands, actress; Kathleen Turner, actress; Poppy Montgomery, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day for love affairs, romance, playful activities, social occasions, sports and the arts. Enjoy good times with others. Laugh it up with children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Real estate deals are beautifully favored today! In fact, anything having to do with home, family and your domestic world can benefit. Buy beautiful things for your home or for loved ones

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're in fine form today! Conversations with siblings and relatives are fun and pleasant. Some of you will make money writing or through sales. You have the golden touch!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Business and commerce are blessed today. Do whatever you can to increase your profits, get a boost in your income or make some cash in any way. There's money in them thar hills!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Enjoy the company of others today. You feel friendly and social Everyone wants to be in your presence because your charm and wit are shining today!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. Try to create some special, private time just for yourself. (You might also learn something from a teacher.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friendships will flourish today. You'll definitely enjoy the company of others, be they individual friends or your involvement in group activities. Get out and socialize!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will be successful today. Some of you might even develop a crush on your boss. (Whoops—tread carefully.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll adore learning something new today through either travel or study. Furthermore, you'll have excellent opportunities to do this! Socialize with someone from a different background or culture from yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be alert for gifts and goodies that can come your way today. Somehow the wealth, property or resources of others can definitely benefit you. (You also feel very passionate! Woo, woo.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to form partnerships with others. It's also the perfect time to discuss anything important with partners. People are reasonable and well-meaning today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll enjoy being at work today. Co-workers are cooperative and friendly. You might also receive praise or even a raise. (Keep your fingers crossed for something good.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		7				2		
			8	1	2			
6			9		4			8
	5	9				1	2	
	4						8	
	1	6				4	3	
2			1		3			7
			5	9	6			
		8				9		

Difficulty Level ★★

6/19

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	8	7	2	3	5	6	1	9
3	1	5	9	6	7	4	2	8
9	6	2	4	8	1	3	7	5
6	7	8	3	2	9	1	5	4
1	9	4	5	7	8	2	6	3
5	2	3	1	4	6	8	9	7
8	5	1	6	9	3	7	4	2
7	4	9	8	1	2	5	3	6
2	3	6	7	5	4	9	8	1

Difficulty Level ★

Enough, says John

From page D2

site's heading reads: The World According to Manang. She's one fab *manang* who has the world at her feet. Her Hapee smile has truly launched a thousand shrieks.

Zzzz

IT'S K Brosas' turn to shine as she makes her theater comeback in the re-staging of "Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah." The musical will be produced by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and mounted at the RCBC Tower in Makati on June 22, 23, 24, 30 and July 1 (3 p.m. and 8 p.m.). It's one riot of a show! And a fag hag like K will surely make you laugh non-stop.

Personal

THANKS more than words can say to all Pepsters (www.pep.ph bloggers) for their outpouring of support. I'm more than happy that I won the Pep poll regarding who the public believes in the recent controversy that I unwittingly got thrust into. I wish I could hug each of you. Your pro-Dolly comments keep my sanity intact (whatever is left of it, anyway).

More thanks

MERCI beaucoup to the National Press Club for inviting me as guest to their media forum on TV Ethics. With the polluted airwaves on local TV, some hosts ought to do some reviewing of their homework before facing the cam. As my colleague Ed de Leon puts it, "Some pseudo-hosts are just news readers. They are not true journalists. That's why they don't know where to draw the line in their interviews."

Enough said.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Big Time
TAMBO

NOW SHOWING !

SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG SUMIKAT
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG YUMAMAN
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG MAGING BIG TIME
PANOORIN ANG PAGBABALIK NG
BIG TIME
An Arkeofilms production
directed by Mario Cornejo
starring
MICHAEL DE MESA
NOR DOMINGO / WINSTON ELIZALDE
JAMIE WILSON / JOANNE MILLER
2005 CINEMALAYA Film Festival Winner
Best Screenplay, Best Score, Best Sound
2006 URIAN Awards Winner for Best Sound
Rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board
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ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
12.15 / 1:25 / 2:00 / 3:10
3:45 / 4:20 / 4:55 / 5:30
6:05 / 6:40 / 7:15 / 7:50
8:25 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 10:10

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
12:00 / 3:20 / 6:40 / 10:00

MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY
1:50 / 3:50 / 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50

OCEAN'S 13
1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50

DOLBY DIGITAL·EX

PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5
1 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 8:10
2 BORDERTOWN
12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
12:10 R6 / 1:50 / 5:10 / 8:30
4 SILIP
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12:15 R5 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
June 23, Saturday 12nn

SARAH GERONIMO IN MOTION
July 14, Saturday 8 pm

MTRCB Rating ➤ GP

ANGEL OF MINE
ANGEL LOCSIN
AIZA MARQUEZ KETCHUP EUSEBIO PINKY AMADOR MALOU DE GUZMAN
MALOU CRISOLOGO KATRINA & BIANCA AGUILA
INTRODUCING EUNICE "CHARMING" LAGUSAD
DIRECTED BY GINA ALAJAR

DADDY'S ANGEL
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MS. JACLYN JOSE AND VALERIE CONCEPCION
DOMINIC OCHOA PAOLO PARAISO GERARD PIZARRAS
CARLO GONZALES ANGELA ANTONIO JOSEPH MARCELO
NICO ANTONIO ERIC ELEAZAR & NASH AGUAS
DIRECTED BY JOSE DANTES III

ANGEL OF LOVE
JENNYLYN MERCADO PATRICK GARCIA
MS. BOOTS ANSON ROA EMPRESS SCHUCK CHESKA IRIGO
ALLAN PAULE KAREL MARQUEZ MARCO ALCARAZ
POPOY BARDOS MARTIN DELOS SANTOS BIANCA PULMANO
SWEET RAMOS INTRODUCING ELLA CRUZ
DIRECTED BY MARK REYES

OPENS TOMORROW

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	OCEAN'S 13	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	PAANO KITA IIBIGIN			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	OCEAN'S 13	THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	OCEAN'S 13	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	OCEAN'S 13 GUARANTEED SEATS	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	OCEAN'S 13	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	OCEAN'S 13	LUCKY YOU			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	OCEAN'S 13		

At the Activity Center
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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness
June 13 to July 1, 2007

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Ansons Emporium Exhibit
June 11 to 28, 2007

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Maria Flordeluna Mall Tour
June 15, 2007

MARKET! MARKET!
Bazaar! Bazaar! Men's Fair
June 4 to 15, 2007

GREENBELT
Ballet Philippine's Show
June 15, 2007 at the GB 3 Park

Onstage
ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM
Embroidered Multiples: 18th - 19th Century Philippine Costume fr. The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology), The Netherlands June 4 to July 1, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

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6 Cyclemind
"Home"
Activity Center, 6pm

Market! Market! · June 22
Cueshé
"Back To Me"
Activity Center, 5pm

Pavilion Mall · June 30
Craeons
"Non-Toxic"
Bridgeway, 5pm

SONY BMG
MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma PAVILION mall
Managed by Ayala Malls